



The Baptist Record

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Together in Christ — More than 50,000 Baptists from throughout the world joined hands during Korean Baptists' welcoming ceremony at Chamshil Main Stadium in Seoul. The ceremony opened the 16th session of the Baptist World Congress, Aug. 14-19. See related stories inside. (BWA Photo by Adrian Vaughan)

Baptist couple escapes from occupied Kuwait

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Acting on faith that friends and family in the United States were praying for their safety, Bill and Sharon Gilbert escaped from Iraqi-controlled Kuwait Aug. 13 in a bullet-pierced, church-owned car that had been used by fellow Southern Baptists Maurice and Laurie Graham.

With the Gilberts and their driver in the Graham's car and four other British and United States citizens in a "borrowed" rental car, the seven escapees drove 45 miles across the desert through a line of Iraqi tanks before crossing the Saudi Arabian border to safety.

The Gilberts, now members of Meadow Lake Church, Yuma, Ariz., formerly were active members of Columbus Avenue Church, Waco, Texas, and First Church, Salado, Texas.

Gilbert, a retired United States Air Force officer, had moved to the Persian Gulf area in February to work with a telecommunications company under contract with the Kuwait Department of Defense. Between the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and their harrowing Aug. 13 escape, the Gilberts and other foreigners were shuttled from one hotel to another in Kuwait City.

"We decided we didn't want to spend Christmas in Kuwait — or in Iraq,"

Gilbert said, "so we left Monday morning at about five o'clock and made the two-hour trek to the border."

The Gilberts' son, David of South Main Church in Houston, said his parents "felt a lot of prayers being offered up."

"They sensed a real drawing power that said, 'Now is the time to get out,'" Mrs. Gilbert explained that they timed their escape for sunrise Monday because she felt certain their Southern Baptist friends in the United States would be praying for them during Sunday evening worship services.

As dawn was breaking in the Persian Gulf and the Gilberts were leaving the SAS Kuwait Hotel, half a world away First Church, Taft, was holding a special prayer meeting in the front yard of Marshall and Marjorie Chrestman, Mrs. Gilbert's parents. "After our regular Sunday evening service, we announced that we would go to the Chrestman's front yard," said Dale Pogue, pastor of First Church of Taft, Texas.

"We sang hymns and one of our deacons led in prayer. Then we tied a yellow ribbon around a tree in their front yard and gave little yellow ribbons to those who were there. We must have had 50 or 60 people who filled that yard."

"I just had a real peace about it,"

Mrs. Gilbert said. "I asked, 'Are you ready to go?' and Bill said, 'This Australian will drive. He's a bush driver.'"

"You've got to understand. I'm henpecked," Gilbert said in jest. "I was ready, but I wasn't going to go anywhere until my wife said go."

The Gilberts and their driver — an Australian forester whom they knew only as "Mad Max" — took the Mitsubishi Gallant that had been driven by the Grahams, Southern Baptist workers at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City.

"We stole it, really," Gilbert said, adding that Iraqi artillery had destroyed the National Evangelical Church and the car that belonged to the church. Bullets had shattered the auto's passenger side window of the auto, and at least one bullet had penetrated the driver's door.

Mrs. Gilbert said she assumed the Grahams were safe at the U.S. Embassy, but she was not certain of their whereabouts.

On Aug. 17, U.S. officials in Kuwait protested a demand from Iraqi forces that Americans in Kuwait report to a hotel across from the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. ambassador said he had no power to force Americans to report there, but he would inform them of the

Iraqi demands. Latest word from the U.S. State Department is that the Grahams still are located in the U.S. Embassy.

Knowing that all roads out of Kuwait City were blocked on Aug. 13, the Gilberts and their fellow escapees chose a desert route. Making their way across the blistering sand, Gilbert said that even in the early morning, the temperature must have reached 120 degrees in the non-air-conditioned car. But the hottest spot, he said, was when the two automobiles found themselves confronting a line of Iraqi army tanks.

"There were tanks as far as you could see from left to right," Mrs. Gilbert said. "We thought we were going to have to turn back. Instead, our driver floorboarded it and went right between two tanks."

"The driver said, 'If the tank turrets turn toward us, tell me,'" Gilbert recalled. "I said, 'What'll you do then?' He said, 'I'll just drive faster.'"

After two sweltering hours, the Gilberts and their associates saw a heavily armed soldier standing in front of a desert fort. Uncertain of his nationality, the escapees turned back.

"Then we came upon a bedouin in a car," Gilbert said. "He pointed back to the fort and yelled, 'Saudi! Saudi!'"

On his birthday, Aug. 13, David Gilbert learned that his parents were safe in Saudi Arabia and would be returning to Texas in three days. It was the first word he had received from them since the Aug. 2 invasion, he said.

As the Gilberts stepped through the doors of U.S. Customs clearance at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport at 2:50 p.m., Aug. 16, they were greeted by cheering family and friends holding "welcome home" signs and waving small U.S. and Texas flags.

"As you might imagine, it's been a tense and trying two weeks," Gilbert told reporters at the airport.

"We just thank the Good Lord for all the prayers offered up for us," Mrs. Gilbert said. "If not for the prayers of our family and friends, we couldn't have made it."

Marshall Chrestman, reflecting on the prayer service held in his front yard just four days earlier, was looking forward to the thanksgiving service First Baptist Church, Taft, could hold the following Sunday.

"It'll be wonderful," he said, choked with emotion. "It'll just be wonderful."

Ken Camp is with the PR Dept., Texas Convention.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Prayer and funds for missions

Consideration for state missions is no less important than giving thought to foreign missions efforts or the work of home missions. State missions endeavors are carried out on a much smaller scale geographically, however, and we don't give as much thought to the work carried on nearer home.

The State Missions Season of Prayer is Sept. 9 to 12. The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions goes along with the season of prayer.

The goal for the Margaret Lackey Offering for this year is \$595,000.

The funds generated by the Margaret Lackey Offering will be used for a wide variety of causes. The two camps for boys and girls will receive the largest amounts. Central Hills Baptist Retreat, the boys' camp near Kosciusko, will receive the largest amount of the offering with \$160,000 budgeted for the operation. The camp has been a source of rich inspiration for many boys and young men during the years.

Almost as much, \$155,000, is targeted for Camp Garaywa, the wooded facility for girls in Clinton. As with Central Hills, Garaywa is the place where many girls and young

women find direction in life — in many cases into vocational religious work.

Another large designation is for new missions with a budget figure of \$150,000. This is the effort to help establish new work in the state, an endeavor in keeping with Bold Mission Thrust.

These are the largest items in the state missions budget because there are no more important concepts than establishing missions and in preparing and inspiring young men and women for service in those missions.

There are other ministries that are very important, however. Disaster relief is scheduled for a \$35,000 allocation. The Mississippi Baptist disaster relief van is a welcome sight whenever a natural disaster has occurred — even including an earthquake in Mexico City.

Another sizeable allotment, \$20,000, is set up for Parchman Ministries. This is the work in training volunteers to work with the civilian personnel of Parchman penitentiary. Impact made on such personnel reaches the inmates.

And the \$37,500 slated for Church

Building Aid and Pastoral Ministries will find important usage as it helps to fund reconstruction for churches that have lost buildings by fire or storm. Also it will help to provide salary supplements where such will help a pastor to give more time to a situation that can grow faster because of that.

Student work on black campuses is budgeted for \$15,000, and \$5,300 is scheduled for special ministries with National Baptists and with Choctaw Indians.

Set aside for missions awareness is \$10,000.

Although these endeavors are to be carried out within our own state, except for disaster relief on occasion, the work is no less important because it is close to home. We are simply carrying on the missions work in our own location that we send others to far-flung areas to accomplish.

We cannot afford to allow this work to suffer.

For that reason we must not neglect the Season of Prayer as it relates to state missions work. Without the prayer, the money to be gathered, regardless of the amount, will be meaningless.

The issue was freedom

The meeting of moderate-thinking Southern Baptists in Atlanta last week was a very significant conference. It was the first time that such a meeting has taken place within the Southern Baptist framework in 145 years, since the conference or conferences that led to the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention; and, in both cases, the issue was freedom.

It makes no difference concerning the issue that the philosophies of others do not agree with those who met in Atlanta. Regardless of philosophical position, the issue of Atlanta was freedom just as it was in Augusta 145 years earlier.

There were some who were observers and even some who were participants who said, "This is the birthing of a new denomination." The body of the group that was meeting, however, refused to acknowledge that. Without question, just about everyone who was a part of the meeting realized that such a condition might be possible. Universally, however, those meeting declared that the formation of a new denomination was not the intent.

The intent was freedom.

The freedom that body is determined to maintain is the freedom to continue to support in a meaningful way the endeavors in which it believes. Those endeavors might include the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. For sure those endeavors would include the work of missionaries.

In February this publication predicted that if the Southern Baptist Convention followed the lead of the convention's Executive Committee and cut most of the funds from the

Baptist Joint Committee, it could prove to be the worst mistake ever made by the convention. Hopefully, that prediction won't be realized; but that defunding lies heavily on the minds of these people. Another even heavier weight is the firing of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin of Baptist Press, though that action was taken by the Executive Committee and not the convention.

So this group is seeking freedom — the freedom to circumvent the SBC Executive Committee in order to support the causes in which the members believe.

By spring an alternate system of financing will be set up. It was not established at this meeting. A steering committee was put in place to forge a recommendation to be placed before this group when it meets again in the spring.

Does this preclude the establishment of a new denomination? This is not the intention, but such a possibility is not beyond the realm of possibility.

At this point, the group is determined to continue to support the ministries of the state conventions. There is no intent at all to change that resolve. If a new nationwide body was to be formed, however, would that alter the procedures of support for the states? The group hopes that it would not.

These are serious days for Southern Baptists. Any attempt to try to take an objective look at the situation indicates that the national meeting of Southern Baptists is dominated by fundamentalists by about a 55-45 percentage factor. That has continued

to be true for an 11-year span. The money for support of convention endeavors, however, is dominated by moderate churches by what many observers say is an 80-20 percentage factor.

That leaves a dilemma from which there seems to be no easy way of escape.

In a news conference, Daniel Vestal, a leader in the group and defeated candidate for Southern Baptist Convention president, said that he would not rule out the possibility of reconciliation. When asked what the possibility of such might be, Vestal reminded the questioner that the Lord had parted the Red Sea.

Those attending the meeting enjoyed themselves. They enjoyed the fact that everyone there was a friendly participant, and there were no political agenda items being directed through the plenary sessions. Decisions were made by the body following suggestions made by smaller groups that the body had established. The atmosphere was relaxed. The point was established that the participants were not there to bash fundamentalists but to seek ways of working towards their interests in missions support.

If the Southern Baptist Convention is to continue as it is, however, there seems to be no question but that the Lord will have to intervene. But then we have no business trying to operate without his blessings anyway.

The well-being of many institutions is hanging in the balance of decisions that are to be made. This group does not want to desert them. Perhaps the fundamentalist-dominated convention



Guest opinion . . . A trust problem

By Raymon Leake

For some years our church has watched from afar the events of Southern Baptist life. With interest, we have noted dramatic changes and have assessed their impact upon our congregation. We have often learned about those changes through the reporting of Baptist Press and have always found the reporting to be accurate and balanced. It has been evident to us across the years that Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin, the two men who have recently been fired, have done their jobs well. Their jobs as we have seen them have not been to serve as public relations persons for the Executive Committee or any other Baptist group. Rather their place has been to report accurately the events of concern to Southern Baptists.

The very fact that the leadership of the Executive Committee hired "armed guards" to protect them while they did this business reflects a sense that what took place on Tuesday, July 17, was not expected to fare well. The fact that prior efforts had been made to remove Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin by means of "buying their silence" demonstrates that members of the Executive Committee were concerned about the fallout from publicity about the matter. Like the Executive Committee, our church expects the fallout to be extensive.

A businessman in our community, upon reading about the effort to "cut

and Executive Committee would be well-served to allow this group to provide support for institutions of their choice without objection.

That may well be the quickest, and only, path to reconciliation.

Decisions of both factions over the next several months will be very meaningful and far-reaching.

a deal" with Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin, remarked that this kind of thing often takes place in the business world, but he could hardly believe that it would take place at the highest levels of the Southern Baptist life. Disturbed about events at Southeastern Seminary, Southern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary, and other agencies, he asked the church, "What can we do?"

Our church has responded in two ways. First, the church has approved this letter to be sent to each member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention expressing our concern that honorable men doing their job would be summarily fired. We want the unvarnished truth from the Executive Committee, and we're not at all sure that we'll get it now. We have a trust problem. We're not sure we can trust as accurate reports from the Executive Committee which reflect a sympathetic bias toward the Committee.

The second action our church has taken is the formation of a denominational relations committee. This committee will be charged with the responsibility of reviewing as thoroughly as possible the events taking place in the boards, committees, and agencies of our convention and to recommend responses that our church may make to convention-wide events. For a number of years we have uncritically trusted the leadership of the convention. We have sent our money-increasing our percentage of giving to the Cooperative Program each year for the last five years. This is not to say we will abandon the Cooperative Program. It is to say that we will become more knowledgeable about what we're supporting and active in our efforts to be good stewards.

Raymon Leake is pastor of First Church, Picayune.

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New funding plan emerges from Atlanta meeting

By Greg Warner

Southern Baptists disturbed by more than a decade of control of their denomination by fundamental-conservatives charted a new course last week — one designed to divert their money from the hands of current Baptist leaders to a new "fellowship" of like-minded Baptists.

The Consultation of Concerned Baptists, organized by moderate-conservative leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention, attracted an estimated 3,000 people to Atlanta Aug. 23-25.

They came, they said, to carve a new future for Baptists excluded from SBC life in recent years. They left, however, with no certainty about the shape of that future or how many Southern Baptist churches will par-

ticipate in it. This much is known:

— The consultation voted to establish an alternate funding plan that would bypass the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' primary channel of financial support for missions, ministries, and educational efforts worldwide. Although participants set up a non-profit corporation to collect the funds, they delayed any decision on how the money will be spent.

— A 60-member interim steering committee, which will be chaired by Atlanta pastor, Daniel Vestal, was elected and asked to develop a mission statement, propose how to spend the money, and suggest new ministries and structures that are needed.

Although the purpose is to bypass SBC institutions and agencies that are run by fundamental-conservative trustees, leaders say the movement will maintain some support of Southern Baptist causes — particularly the missionaries.

— The consultation voted to establish a "fellowship" but stopped short of forming a new Baptist denomination. No name was given to the fellowship and no predictions were made about how many Southern Baptist churches will participate in it.

"I am prepared for this movement to begin as a nucleus," said Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta. He told reporters he was "overwhelmed" at the attendance at the consultation. But Vestal would not

predict how much of the estimated \$137 million in Cooperative Program contributions will be diverted to the new fund.

While leaders of the movement said they are not planning a split from the Southern Baptist Convention, they did not rule out the possibility that a new Baptist denomination may eventually emerge.

"This is not the time to talk about a new denomination," Vestal told reporters. "I really see what we're about as a renewal movement among Southern Baptists."

Vestal, who twice lost bids for the SBC presidency as part of an effort to reverse the denomination's rightward shift, said many Southern Baptists have been "broken in spirit" by events

of the past decade.

"We're here seeking renewal for ourselves, for Southern Baptist people, and for the body of Christ," Vestal said in an opening address to consultation participants. "We're here to help not hurt, to heal not wound, to unify not divide, to focus on the future not the past."

He later said Southern Baptists are in "a transition time," however, and that a new denomination is a possibility. "I'm not naive . . . I know that historically renewal movements produce new institutions."

Consultation participants, most of whom were laypeople, also were in no hurry to define the scope of the movement. A last-minute motion to name (See **ATLANTA** on page 5)

20 Baptist workers leave Jordan, Yemen

By Art Toalston

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP) — Six Southern Baptist workers have evacuated Jordan and 14 in Yemen are making arrangements to evacuate as Middle East tensions continue to mount.

The workers from Jordan are the first Southern Baptist personnel to leave any of the countries of the Middle East since Iraq created a global crisis by invading Kuwait Aug. 2. They went to the island nation of Cyprus.

The deployment of U.S. troops to protect Saudi Arabia has stirred anti-American, anti-Saudi resentment and demonstrations in the region, especially in Jordan and Yemen.

Meanwhile, relatives of two Southern Baptist workers detained in Kuwait continue to receive reports from the U.S. State Department that the couple, Maurice and Laurie Graham, and their 13- and 10-year-old sons remain safe in the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City. The Grahams are among some 3,000 Americans stranded in Kuwait.

Iraq ordered foreign embassies in Kuwait to close by Aug. 24 and move their personnel to Baghdad, Iraq's capital. The United States and numerous other countries dismissed the order.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait will remain open and U.S. diplomatic personnel will remain there to relate to "the legitimate government of Kuwait," a U.S. State Department spokesman told Baptist Press Aug. 22.

Whether to evacuate "has been a tough decision" for every worker in Jordan and Yemen, said Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa from a base in Cyprus.

U.S. Embassy officials in Jordan and Yemen have advised Americans to leave, Thorne said. The highest-level advisory was issued in Yemen, he said. In each country, pro-Iraq public opinion is sizable.

Beyond the six Southern Baptist workers who have left Jordan, others there also may evacuate to Cyprus, Thorne said. Nine Southern Baptist workers in Yemen hope to continue working at a 70-bed Baptist hospital, one of the very few Christian ministries in the country.

In all, 19 workers have been in Jordan during the mounting crisis and 23 in Yemen.

"We hope it's temporary. We're buying round-trip tickets in faith that we can use them within three months," Thorne said. And in Yemen, the Baptist workers are obtaining exit and re-entry visas to allow them to return when they want to and not lose their work permits, he said.

For now, the evacuating Southern Baptist workers plan to reside in Cyprus, an island nation in the Mediterranean near Turkey. Cyprus also was the initial destination for 24 Southern Baptist workers who left Lebanon in 1987 after the United States suspended passport privileges for Americans there.

The workers assigned to Jordan and Yemen have mixed feelings about leaving, Thorne said. They "want to be there" to continue their ministries with Jordanian and Yemeni co-workers, he said, but are concerned for their safety and feeling frustrated at "being tied down" by having to stay inside or close to their homes.

The first three families to evacuate Jordan are Jeff and Susan Vann of Hickory, Ky., and Sacramento, Ky., their two sons, ages 10 and 5, and a 7-year-old daughter, who left Aug. 17; Charles and Nancy Browning of Judsonia, Ark., and Lonoke, Ark., their three daughters, ages 14, 11 and 2, and two sons, ages 10 and 5, who left Aug. 19; and Gary and SuEllen DeBerry, both of Gadsden, Ala., and their 11-year-old daughter, who left Aug. 21.

Vann is a first-term worker based in (See **JORDAN** on page 13)

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 30, 1990

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Koreans baptize 10,000 during World Congress

By Anne W. McWilliams

Almost 11,000 registered for the 16th Baptist World Congress, Aug. 14-18, in Seoul, Korea — 6,900 from Korea and 3,749 from outside Korea.

High point of the week came on Saturday afternoon when, in a mass service, 8,000 new Korean Christians were baptized in the Han River at the Olympic rowing site. Another 2,000 had been baptized in the river on Monday afternoon. This celebration of the ordinance of baptism and the observance of the Lord's Supper at the closing session on Saturday night were both "firsts" in Baptist World Alliance history.

In a way not foreseen when the theme was chosen, world Baptists joined "Together in Christ." Dramatic events in Europe had made it possible for Eastern Europeans to attend in remarkable numbers. They came from Romania and Czechoslovakia, from Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

"Since 1917," said Denton Lotz, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance, we have not had more than six leaders from the USSR at any congress meeting." This time, as the Roll Call of Nations sounded, 171 Soviets stood and waved at the cheering crowd. Delegates from 85 countries, representing 145 conventions and

unions, marched in a parade of banners, "used instead of flags," said BWA president Noel Vose, "to convey Baptists' oneness in Jesus Christ." Each banner was decorated with national and/or Christian symbols descriptive of the nation's culture.

Among these Baptists from every continent were 1,681 from the USA. One group of Europeans had met in London, then traveled by train to Berlin and Moscow and across Siberia, enroute to Seoul.

This meeting at the Chamshil Gymnasium, site of basketball and other games during the 1988 Olympics, Koreans described as "a spiritual Olympics."

As congress participants celebrated their oneness, they focused on the importance of prayer and world evangelism. Also, they elected Danish Baptist leader Knud Wumpelmann to a five-year term as president of the Baptist World Alliance. Wumpelmann, 68, who recently retired as secretary-treasurer of the European Baptist Federation, succeeds Noel Vose of Australia.

Prayer and evangelism have been cited as reasons for the rapid growth of the Christian church in Korea since 1945. "It is no accident that this Con-

gress is taking place in Korea," said Roy Bell of Canada, chairman of the Congress program committee. "We have to learn the lessons Koreans have to teach."

According to President Vose, "We are gleaned Korean fields for good wheat to carry elsewhere."

"Every noon our leadership stops to pray," said Billy Kim, chairman of the Korean committee of local arrangements. "We pray at 4:30 in the morning and on Friday nights in all-night prayer meetings." Also many of the 1,600 Korean Baptist churches have their own "prayer mountains," where members go for prayer retreats, for a few hours or a few days.

Every congress session provided time for intercessory prayer. "People from the West," Lotz noted, "are not used to the excitement of Korean prayer" and "had their hearts strangely moved." In little circles of four or five, all over the gymnasium, thousands prayed, called aloud the names of unsaved family and friends and interceded for them.

Prayer services were held at some hotels at 4:30 p.m. and participants were offered transportation to attend an all-night prayer service.

(See **WORLD CONGRESS** on page 9)

WMU sets Lackey State Mission Offering goal at \$595,000

The 1990 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering's season of prayer is Sept. 9-12.

This is a time for churches to set aside for attention to mission needs in the state.

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the offering, has set a goal of \$595,000. Churches

set their own goals. The WMU state office provides offering envelopes, posters, programs and prayer guides. These have already been mailed to each Mississippi Baptist church.

The offering is named for Margaret Lackey, who retired as corresponding

secretary of Mississippi WMU in 1930.

The gifts from the churches go for funding new missions, for upkeep of Central Hills Baptist Retreat and Camp Garaywa, for disaster relief, for Parchman prison ministries, for church building aid and pastoral aid, for student work on black campuses,

and for a special project in Pearl River County aimed at planting new churches.

Last year, three church sites were purchased with state mission offering money for a total of \$56,550. The money also helps pay for mobile chapels scattered throughout the state

helping new congregations with a temporary place to meet.

In 1989, 439 decisions were made at Central Hills, the camp for boys, and at Camp Garaywa, for girls, 246 accepted Christ, 415 made rededications of their lives to Christ, and 22 felt God calling them into missions.

Foreign, home trustees affirm Cooperative Program

August 9, 1990

Dear Southern Baptists:

The trustees of the Foreign Mission Board indicated strong affirmation of a recommendation from the Chairman's Council (composed of all committee chairmen) that an open letter to Southern Baptists be sent by the chairman and president. The intention of the council was to share some of the exciting things happening in the Foreign Mission Board effort and call for continuing support of foreign missions through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The exciting things happening and the unlimited opportunities certainly should challenge Southern Baptists to increase their financial support.

The Kenyan Crusade involved approximately 540 volunteers from all across the United States. Over 56,000 professions of faith were registered and 84 new congregations were formed. Pray for the urgent and demanding follow-up effort.

In two weeks of revival meetings in Byelorussia (a province of USSR) in July, there were 2,800 professions of faith registered. There continues to be great response in many parts of the world.

As of Aug. 1, 1990, there are 3,820 missionaries assigned to 120 countries. Seven more countries are approved. As soon as personnel is assigned to five of the seven, Southern Baptists will have reached their second Bold Mission Thrust goal — assigning missionaries to 125 countries.

The first Bold Mission Thrust goal fulfilled was moving beyond 10,000 foreign mission volunteers in 1988. This was maintained in 1989, and appears to be on target in 1990.

The crumbling of the Berlin wall and other less visible walls in Eastern Europe has opened many new opportunities. Already \$3.25 million has been appropriated since December by the Foreign Mission Board for Eastern Europe. Missionaries have been assigned to USSR, Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. There are requests for 88 missionaries and/or two-year volunteers. Many volunteer projects are being planned.

Our new approach to global strategy has resulted in many new programs under the umbrella of Cooperative Services International. We are moving into restricted areas in ways traditional missionaries could not go. There are 21 nonresidential missionary family units assigned to evangelize 21 people groups encompassing over 150 million people. A new emphasis on tentmakers is resulting in committed witnesses sharing the gospel where missionaries cannot live and witness.

Itinerant missionaries are witnessing, preaching, and discipling from nation to nation where short-term visits are the only option.

There is an upturn in numbers of missionaries being appointed this year. Missionary appointments are still below the desired level, but if the projection of approximately 380 is met this year, we will move closer to the 480 needed annually to reach Bold Mission Thrust goals of 5,000 on the field by A.D. 2000. Pray the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers.

Due to the generosity of Southern Baptists and their commitment to foreign missions, the budget has more than doubled in the last decade. It moved from almost \$77 million in 1980 to nearly \$175 million in 1990. The two largest sources continue to be the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

With all of these exciting and challenging opportunities, we would call for a genuine inclusiveness of all authentic Southern Baptists in denominational life that would encourage the highest level of giving from the full spectrum of Southern Baptists in support of Bold Mission Thrust. In the meeting of the Foreign Mission Board at Glorietta in July, the board made a commitment to strengthen the financial support of our missionaries. The trustees desire Southern Baptists to know that this is based on their confidence of sustained financial support by Southern Baptists.

The Cooperative Program continues to be the envy of all other missionary-sending denominations. It is the simplest and easiest way to support all of the agreed upon causes to which all Southern Baptists are committed. Coupled with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, this provides a balanced support for our missionaries that has sustained our growth through the years. It is our prayer that every church will generously support our cooperative mission effort by making a significant increase in the percentage of total gifts through our cooperative approach to missions.

Sincerely,
William L. Hancock
R. Keith Parks

Two resolutions accuse RECORD of biased position

Two resolutions almost identical in nature have been passed by the executive board or committee of two associations in Mississippi concerning the Baptist Record. One from Clarke Association was signed by Grady Crowell, director of missions; C. F. Worthington, moderator; Jake Williams, vice moderator; and executive committee members Ferrell Morris, Albert McMullen, and David Jay.

A resolution from Sunflower Association Executive Board was signed by secretary Mike Wiggins.

In neither case was there an indication as to nature of the vote.

In both cases the resolutions called attention to a biased position of the Baptist Record and that the editorials

have "widened the schism in our denomination." Both resolutions mentioned a continual emphasis on the convention controversy and a castigation of those who take an opposing view.

The resolutions asked those in authority to "do whatever is necessary in order to correct (rectify) this situation." Both mentioned that if a solution had not been reached by the time of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November, action could be initiated from the floor of the convention.

The Record has had communications from both associations stating that in neither case was the vote unanimous.

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board affirmed the Cooperative Program and warned against alternate giving plans after hearing financial projections for the agency through 1993.

During their Aug. 8 meeting, HMB trustees adopted a resolution presented by Anthony Carson of Louisville, Ky. The resolution affirms the Cooperative Program and states the group's opposition to "negative designation or any attempt to circumvent the Cooperative Program."

The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget that funds home and foreign missions, theological education, and other national causes.

A second resolution, offered by Jon Meek of Aberdeen, N.J., expanded upon Carson's resolution by calling on trustees to encourage their churches to increase support of the Cooperative Program. Meek also requested that HMB administration distribute the text of a devotional message given earlier in the meeting by George Harris of San Antonio, Texas.

In the devotion, Harris urged trustees, "don't quit now" in supporting the Cooperative Program. "The world is not interested in whether we escrow or don't escrow our funds, whether we're moderate or conservative, but whether we know Jesus," he said. "This is not the time for Southern Baptists or the Home Mission Board to quit."

Concern about negative designation and alternate funding plans has increased since the denomination's annual meeting in June. Churches and state conventions which consider themselves cut off by current leadership have announced plans to alter their giving as a form of protest.

In his address to the board, HMB President Larry Lewis also spoke about threats to the Cooperative Program. Missionaries, not convention leadership, will be hurt by churches withholding money, he said.

"Who are the ones who suffer?" Lewis asked. "Not Paul

Pressler. Not Paige Patterson. Not Larry Lewis or Morris Chapman. Not the SBC Executive Committee or even you, the members of the Home Mission board's director, directors.

"No! It is the missionaries who suffer most. It is the cause of world missions that pays the price.

"Read my lips," Lewis declared. "We must not hold our missionaries hostage while we fight our political battles in the SBC."

Lewis predicted an "impossible" situation if Southern Baptists destroy the Cooperative Program and return to a societal method of funding missions.

"If this becomes the prevailing approach, budgets will be slashed, programs will be eliminated, services will be reduced. In all likelihood, staff members and missionaries will lose their jobs."

He encouraged trustees to "stand up and be counted for the Cooperative Program."

Despite his concerns about the threat to the Cooperative Program and what Lewis called "the untimely dismissal of two respected journalists," Lewis said he felt positive about the future of Southern Baptists. (Lewis was referring to the action of the SBC Executive Committee dismissing Al Shackleford and Dan Martin as director and news editor of the Baptist Press.)

Lewis said he believes the present leaders of the convention "will make a definite and deliberate effort to broaden the leadership base to include a larger spectrum of Southern Baptist lives. I believe this is imperative if we achieve healing and reconciliation within our beloved denomination," he said.

Lewis concluded with an appeal for Baptists to demonstrate unconditional love. "A harsh, condemnatory, judgmental spirit is unbecoming any community of Christians." He urged Baptists to unite in the task of missions.

Wingfield writes for HMB.



Crestwood Clinic pinpoints needs

Don Faucett, an ophthalmologist and a volunteer at Crestwood Clinic for Christ in Jackson, tests Mrs. Monroe, a client at Crestwood, for eye problems. The woman is a diabetic with hypertension, which makes it necessary for her eyes to be tested for problems such as glaucoma. Faucett, a member of First Church, Jackson, said the clinic needs a phoropter, which is a device for prescribing corrective lenses, and a set of trial lenses and trial frames, so eyeglass prescriptions can be made at the clinic.

Luther Tucker, director of Crestwood Baptist Center, of which the clinic is a part, said that in addition to eye care, there is prenatal care on Tuesdays and minor medical work on Wednesday afternoons. About 15 physicians are on the volunteer list. "What we really need are more dentists for our dental clinic — for at least a couple of hours each month," said Tucker. "At this time we have approximately 30 to 40 patients waiting to get in for dental service." (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Lottie Moon Offering goal for Mississippi is \$5,000,000!

By Marjean Patterson

In an exciting, creative meeting of Mississippi trustees of the Foreign Mission Board and the state WMU director, plans were made to ask pastors to become even more involved than they have been in helping promote the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This meeting was held Thursday, Aug. 23.

Pastors Randy Davis, Dan Watts, and Terry Williams met with Marjean Patterson to consider additional involvement of our pastors in encouraging their church members to participate in this special observance.

The Lottie Moon Offering is a Woman's Missionary Union-promoted offering which provides approximately one-half of the total budget of the Foreign Mission Board each year. Church-wide participation is essential in the observance of the Week of Prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Some detailed suggestions will be mailed to pastors concerning possible ways for them to use their influence in increasing our gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering.

A state goal of \$5,000,000 has been set for this offering. This is a challenging undertaking for Mississippi Baptists, one which is reachable and exciting as we think about our part in world missions and evangelism.

Patterson is executive director, Mississippi WMU.

Former Baptist student at helm of embattled embassy in Kuwait

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A former Baptist Student Union member is at the forefront of U.S. diplomatic efforts in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

W. Nathaniel Howell, U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, was a member of the Baptist Student Union during undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville 30 years ago. In recent years, Howell and his wife, Margie, have been involved in Baptist Student Union alumni activities at the university.

Howell leads the embassy, where two Southern Baptist workers, Maurice and Laurie Graham, have taken refuge with a number of other Americans. The Grahams sent a cable Aug. 23 to relatives in the United States reporting: "We are still at the embassy with many others in good hands."

The ambassador's tour of duty in

Kuwait had been scheduled to end this month, but now his diplomatic skills face the severest of tests. Iraq has ordered the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait to close, but the United States has refused to comply, even in the face of Iraqi troops blocking entry and exit at the compound.

Toalston writes for FMB.

Most streets in our American cities run north and south or east and west, and the dwellings are built to face them. Hygienists and exponents of vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, say this was a boner in planning. Houses built to face northeast, southeast, southwest, or northwest get some direct sunlight on all four sides sometime during the day.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, August 30, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

"This makes me think of Pentecost"

"This makes me think of Pentecost," said Edgar Hallock Saturday on the river in Seoul. Hallock at age 74, after 10 years of retirement from mission service in Brazil, had moved to Korea for six months to coordinate preparations for the 16th Baptist World Congress.

"Yes," I thought, "Pentecost must have been like this." We were standing along the banks of the Olympic Rowing Site on the Han River. That August afternoon, 8,000 new Korean Christians were to be baptized here. As far as I could see down the river stood people robed in white. Pastors had waded into the water and were reaching out their hands. Those to be baptized had lined up in groups and were clambering gingerly down the rocky bank. Helpers in white held their hands to steady them as, one by one, they stepped into the water.

Korean Baptists had planned this monumental service as a testimony to their new life in Christ, a testimony they wanted all Seoul and Korea to know about. (One writer said there are an estimated 30 million non-Christians in Korea and 10 million Christians, with Baptists numbering 307,876.) In an earlier service Monday, Aug. 13, another 2,000 had been baptized while 1,000 spectators sang "This Is My Story." As Baptists had hoped, Seoul newspapers had printed stories and pictures of the event.

While my friend, Joan Peterson, and I watched, people swirled around us, many with cameras in hand, from all parts of the world. David Gomes of Brazil kept calling me to come

meet someone else he knew. Then there was Moses Sudheer, the pastor from India who told us his wife was in Kuwait visiting her sister when Iraq invaded, and is still there; he asked us to pray for her safety. There were our new friends from Canada and Argentina and many people we knew from the United States. We heard that one of those being baptized was the daughter of Denton Lotz, general secretary, BWA.

The Korean army had set up tents where those being baptized could dress after they came out of the water. In the baptismal group nearest us, the pastor prayed with the candidate, looked up toward heaven, extended his hand upward, baptized the person, and then prayed again. Over the loudspeaker came the sounds of "How Great Thou Art" — "Amazing Grace" — "In The Sweet By and By" . . .

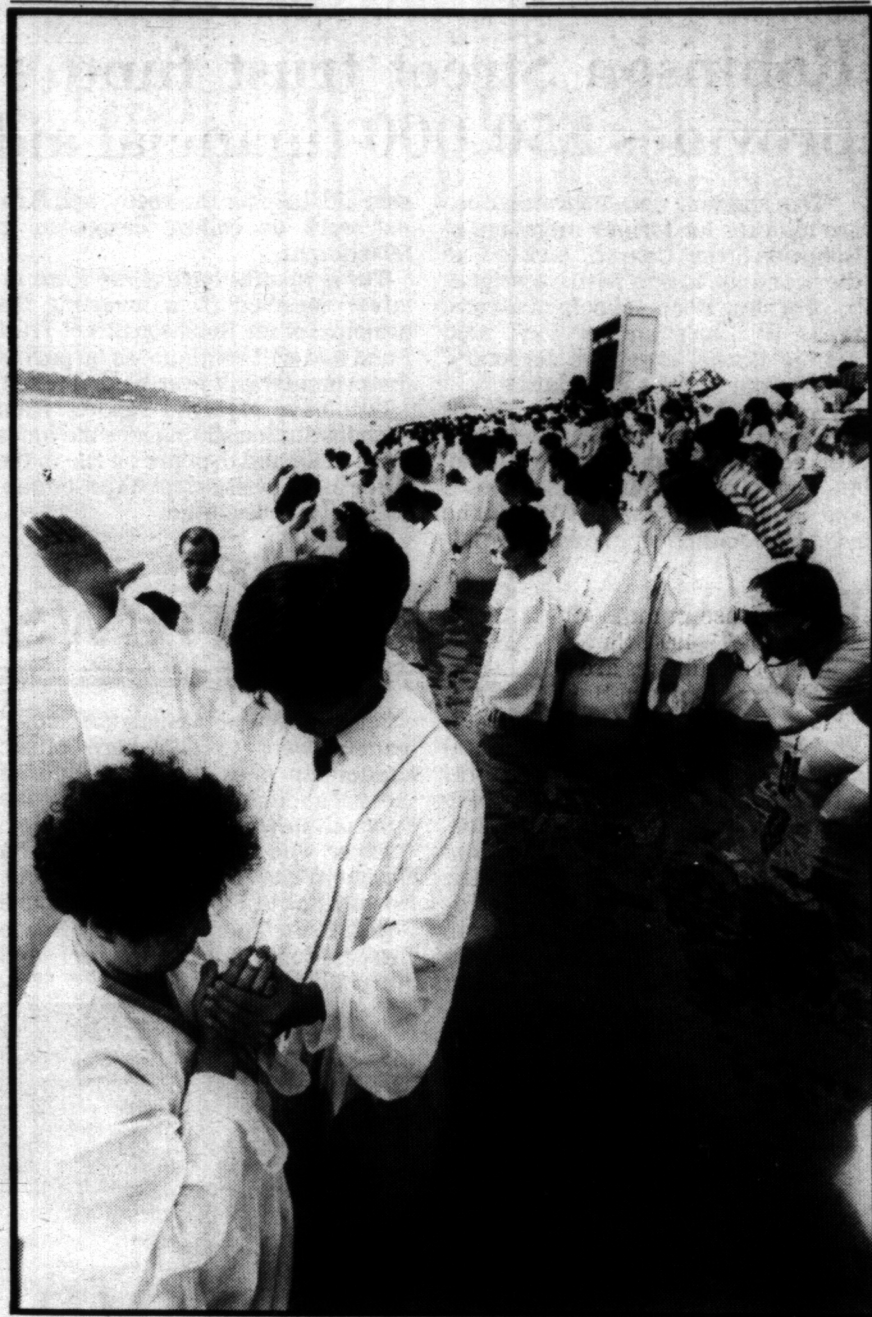
The sun blazed. Heat waves shimmered. Yet Joan and I were among the fortunates with umbrellas for shade. This was not because we had had the foresight to bring them with us to Korea. It was because God had provided them for us. Tuesday morning, it had rained, and our Korean friend, Sang Hee Lee, had left his office in the Bank of Korea to buy umbrellas and leave them at the desk of Hotel Hamilton for us. Hence, we had them on Saturday afternoon.

God provided another serendipity a little while later — a seat in the shade where a cool breeze blew, and a drink of cold water. For three American dollars each, delegates had ridden buses to the rowing site. Usually, when

I stand anywhere longer than 10 minutes, I start saying my legs hurt. That afternoon, I was so excited by what I was seeing, I forgot I even had any legs! Joan and I stayed until the last one had been immersed. By then, all the buses had gone back to the Chamsil Gymnasium, and left us, and a busload more, stranded. An interpreter found us a place to sit and brought the cups of cold water. She called and asked that a bus be sent for us. While we waited, we talked with Baptists from Australia, Seattle, Panama, and Trinidad. And I met Philemon Moloi, president of the Baptist Convention of Southern Africa.

The manager of the rowing complex introduced himself to us and said he had at first refused permission for the baptismal service. The water contained chemicals which he felt might injure those being baptized. But for some reason (answered prayer?), he said, he later felt impelled to give permission. Fire trucks kept a constant spray of water flowing so that the baptismal candidates could immediately wash off the river water.

That night I celebrated the Lord's Supper with 15,000 or 20,000 others and sang with them "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." As the world congress adjourned, people spontaneously embraced everyone they met on the way out of the building. With so many people, that was a lot of hugs! At every step I took, someone hugged me, people I'd never seen before and probably won't see again until I get to heaven. That day I felt like I was already there!



Ten thousand Koreans were baptized in the Han River. On Monday afternoon, Aug. 13, in Seoul, Korea, 2,000 were baptized. Saturday afternoon, 8,000 more Koreans were baptized in the Han River. (BWA Photo by Paul Obregon)

ATLANTA

From page 3

the new organization the "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" was withdrawn, to the delight of the audience, after moderator Jimmy Allen of Fort Worth, Texas, spoke against it.

Allen, former president of the Radio and Television Commission and convener of the meeting, urged participants simply to call the group "the fellowship" in order to "maintain the sense of openness to whatever the Holy Spirit is doing among us."

"If you named it, you might lose it," Allen warned. Allen is chairperson of Baptist Committed to the SBC, the Houston-based moderate-conservative organization that arranged the consultation at Vestal's request. Expenses for the meeting were paid by offerings received during the three-day event, which was held at the Inforum conference center in downtown Atlanta.

The consultation attracted Baptist Committed supporters and members of the Southern Baptist Alliance, as well as individuals not associated with any of the moderate-conservative

organizations. Although no registration figures were immediately available, it was estimated the 3,000 participants came from more than 1,000 SBC churches.

Despite the volatile nature of the topics, the meeting was free of the rancor and tension typical of recent Southern Baptist Conventions. Speakers and participants alike said they were weary of 12 years of political wranglings and ready to find another approach to the problems among Southern Baptists.

Funding plan approved

The most urgent matter of business for most participants was a change in the traditional method of funding Southern Baptist causes.

Although many moderate-conservatives have long supported the Cooperative Program and criticized fundamental-conservatives who don't, that sentiment has shifted in recent years as fundamental-conservatives have begun making changes in the way Southern Baptist agencies are operated.

Moderate-conservatives say current trustees at the SBC agencies have abandoned such Baptist principles as

church-state separation and soul-competency and have made belief in inerrancy a litmus test for service in the denomination.

Conference participants approved a recommendation to create "an alternate funding plan for the national causes in which Baptists believe." The plan was approved Aug. 24 by a show-of-hands vote with almost no opposition.

Immediately after the vote, Benjamin Owen, pastor of Madison Avenue Church in Covington, Ky., presented a \$75 check as the first contribution to the fund. The money was given to missions by children in the church's Vacation Bible School.

The recommendation authorized a non-profit corporation to receive funds — the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program, Inc.

— but did not decide what national causes would benefit from the funding.

Instead participants asked the steering committee to develop a long-term proposal to be approved in another consultation next spring. That proposal likely will establish a formula for distribution of the funds,

either to Southern Baptist agencies or new mission ventures or both.

Until that distribution formula is in place, the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program will place contributions — which can come from in-

dividual Baptists, local churches or conventions — in escrow unless those contributing the funds give instructions for their distribution.

Warner is associate editor, Florida Baptist Witness.

Mississippians participate in Atlanta meeting

Three Mississippians were elected to the steering committee of the moderate fellowship meeting in Atlanta last week and will be helping to formulate a system of alternate financing for missions support to be presented next spring when the group meets again.

The steering committee was nominated by a committee which was elected by the total group from suggestions made in meetings of state groups.

Those elected to the steering committee from Mississippi were Mary Jane Nethery of Tupelo, retired executive director of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union and compiler of a sizeable treatise on the controversy; Tom Sims, Richton attorney; and Joe Tuten, retired pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson.

Two Mississippians were on the nominating committee. They were Marvin Bond of Starkville and Sims.

Four Mississippians were workgroup leaders. They were Bond; James F. Yates of Yazoo City; Raymond Lloyd, Starkville; and Ken Massey, Marks.

Two Mississippians were recorders in workgroup sessions. They were Roger Paynter of Jackson and Thelma Pearson of Hattiesburg.

Massey was the leader of the Mississippi group meeting, which was attended by 41.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

September 7-8, 1990

and

September 14-15, 1990

Registration on Friday from 3:30 to 5:00

Training for all Sunday School leaders include:

- Job responsibilities • purpose of Sunday School
- teaching improvement • outreach • planning

The emphasis is on practical "how to's" of building, caring and reaching Sunday Schools.

No child care provided

For additional information call:

Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, telephone (601) 452-7261

Robinson Street trust fund provides \$50,000 financial aid

"Thanksgiving and congratulations are in order for former members of Robinson Street Church, Jackson, as they continue to be a positive witness by providing financial help in several areas of Christian service," said Aubrey Boone, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Last year approximately \$50,000 was sent to the Baptist Children's Village, Mississippi College, Hinds-Madison Association for Crestwood, and the Baptist Student Union to be used in providing child care, scholar-

ship aid, help for the needy, and Baptist work on college campuses in Mississippi.

These monies have come from interest received from investing the principal of the Robinson Street Trust Fund and will continue, as no part of the principal will ever be disbursed.

"We have received reports from each institution stating how the funds were used, and they are on file in the office of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation," Boone stated.

Names in the news



Sumrall

Anita Sumrall is the new assistant manager/social worker at Crestwood Baptist Center in Jackson. Director of the center, operated by Hinds-Madison Association, is Luther Tucker. Miss Sumrall is a native of Carriere.

John Wayne Baggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Baggett, Nettleton, received the master of religious education degree on July 27 at New Orleans Seminary.

Baggett, minister of music at First Church, Quitman, is married to the former Peggy Howell of Aberdeen. He holds the bachelor of music degree from Mississippi State University.

David Appleby has received the Heitor Villa-Lobos Centennial Medal, in recognition of his life-long efforts in promoting the musical works of Villa-Lobos. Brazilian Ambassador Marcilio Marques Moreira presented the award to Appleby at a ceremony on Aug. 6, at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Appleby, a specialist in the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, is author of *The Music Of Brazil* (University of Texas Press), a history of Brazilian music from colonial times to the present. He has also published *Heitor Villa-Lobos, A Bibliography*, a reference work on the music, discography, and bibliography of the composer. A three-time Fulbright Fellowship grantee, Appleby spent the fall, 1989 semester in Brazil researching material for a narrative biography of the noted composer. David Appleby is the son of Mrs. Rosalee Mills Appleby, retired Southern Baptist missionary who served 38 years in Brazil. Mrs. Appleby, now in advanced years, is a resident of Madison County Nursing Home, Canton, Miss. Appleby, an accomplished pianist, teaches music in the Fine Arts Department of Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Ill.

Dr. Larry Braidfoot, academic vice president, announces that Robert Walters has been named the new professor of education at William Carey College. Walters has served as professor of education, dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and associate vice president for academic affairs at Delta State University in Cleveland. He holds a doctorate of education from the University of Mississippi.



Tim Holmes, right, as presented a Certificate of License to preach from Tommy Anderson, left, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Pearl. Holmes is available for preaching and can be contacted at 114 Summer Ridge Drive, Pearl, MS 39208 or call (601) 932-8057.

Larry S. McDonald, pastor of Castlewoods Church in Rankin County, has been selected for the 1989 Outstanding Young Men of America award. McDonald, a graduate of Mississippi College, will soon complete the doctor of ministry degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. He is married to the former Tina Stewart and they have two children, Benjamin and Rebecca.

T. W. Kendall was licensed to the ministry of the gospel March 25 by Nineteenth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg. He was ordained there June 10.

Kendall is a native of Bolivar County, and has resided in Hattiesburg for 15 years, where he has been a member of the Nineteenth Avenue Church. He has taught Bible school classes, served as Training Union director, church clerk, church treasurer, chairman of deacons, lay preacher, and RA director.

Kendall is available for interim and supply preaching, and can be reached at the following address: 3408 West Adeline, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, (601) 264-4825.

Just for the Record



The Baptist Young Women of First Church, Bruce, recently held a backyard Vacation Bible School in the Farmer subdivision. A total of 19 children attended during the 5-day session. BYW members pictured left to right are, Janet Longbot-

tom, Drenett Burchfield, Cathy Shoemake, Rose Wells, Jeanne Cole, Kim Snellings, and Susan Beckett. Members not pictured include Betty Adams, Celia Hillhouse, Paula Maddox, Alison McDowell, Susan Wilbanks, and Kelli Byars.

Moak's Creek Church will celebrate 120th anniversary

Moak's Creek Church, Summit (Lincoln) will celebrate its 120th anniversary Sept. 2.

Saturday night, Sept. 1, the church will hold a singing from 7 to 8 p.m. with several groups participating.

Sunday, Sept. 2, Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., followed by morning worship with a guest speaker. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service.

Afternoon worship will begin at 1:30 with two former pastors present as guest speakers. There will also be a roll call of members, and a small memorial for members who have died since the church's centennial in 1970.

Billy Howse is pastor; Randy Caruth is music director.

MBMC to become smokefree

Recently the Board of Trustees of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center voted to make the institution smokefree. Effective Monday, September 3, 1990, smoking will not be permitted in any hospital building, or vehicle, or on the grounds (except in clearly designated areas) by employees, physicians, patients or visitors.

"As a health care leader for our community, MBMC has a responsibility to point out the dangers of smoking. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in our country today. Therefore, it is incompatible with our mission of good health. Our smokefree policy enhances the well-being of our patients and employees and emphasizes the importance of clean air for all," said Kent Strum, executive director.

Homecomings

Friendship East Church, Charleston: Sept. 9; 11 a.m. service, a plaque honoring its founding members will be unveiled and the families will be recognized; J. G. Thomas, pastor.

New Hope Church, Foxworth (Marion): Sept. 16; 11 a.m.; Tommy King of Columbia, guest speaker; David Grimley of Vicksburg, guest singer; covered dish dinner on the grounds following the morning service; evening service at 7 p.m.; Bud Parker is pastor.

Hebron Church (Panola): Sept. 23; services start 10:30 Sunday morning; dinner at the church; Donnie Stewart, evangelist; Don Brummett, music director; Wanda Bullington, pianist; Kenny Adair, pastor.

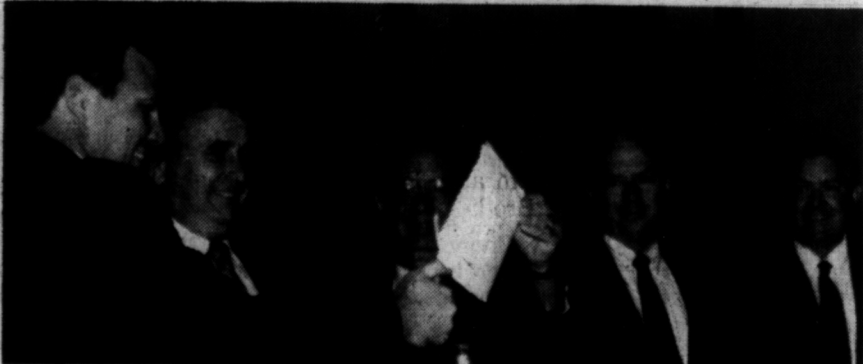


Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently held a recognition service for its Mission Friends, G.A.s and Acteens. "I'll Tell It Now" was the theme. Bill Patten is the pastor.

Top photo: left to right: Mission Friends Marla Richardson, Christopher Richey, Jennifer Jennings, Rachel Miller, Laci Burkes, Ashley Burkes, Andrea Jennings, Anna Larson, Michael Shinn, Jana Jacobson, and Laura Beth Steen. (Not pictured: Annette Miller and Esther Lee, leaders.)

Middle photo, GAs, front row: Amber Larson, Jessica Rickles, Mindy Shinn, Melanie Herrington, Rachel Patten, Brea Hugley, Tracy Gordon, and Whitney Richardson. Back row: Joyce Shinn, Leader: Brandie Stubbs, Tina Shinn, Erin Loper, Carrie Handley, Melissa Herrington, Amber Miller, and leader Robin Herrington.

Bottom photo, Acteens Queen-with-Scepter: Tara Hall; page, Rachel Miller; Queen Nikki Rogers; page, Jennifer Jennings; Queen Amanda Richardson; and page, Marla Richardson. (Not pictured: Jackie Richardson, Leader.)



Emmanuel Church, Grenada, retired the debt on its sanctuary with a noteburning service, July 15.

Pictured, from left, are Clarence Cooper, Jr., pastor; William Waddle and Don Henderson, former pastors; Andy Anderson former deacon; and John Lamkin, deacon.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Sept. 2-8 Brotherhood Leadership Week (BRO)
- Sept. 6 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinics; 6-9:30 p.m.; Temple BC, Hattiesburg (CM)
- Sept. 8 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinics; 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; FBC, Biloxi/Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson (CM)

Book reviews

ANGELWALK by Roger Elwood (Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, paper, 192 pp.) In this powerful novel, an angel, Darien, can't believe that Lucifer is quite as bad as God says he is. So God lets Darien walk about over the earth and find out for himself what Lucifer is like. Modern-day America is the backdrop for the author's graphic descriptions of hell. In the end, Darien must choose between good and evil and decide whether to stay and serve Lucifer or return to heaven and serve God. One reviewer compares this book to C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. Says Warren Wiersbe, "This book is like a lovely spider's web — made out of steel cables, charged with high voltage. One minute I was smiling at a deft phrase, and the next minute I was weeping. I couldn't help it." — AWM

Price, Nelson L.; SERVANTS NOT CELEBRITIES; Nashville; Broadman; 1989.

Nelson L. Price is pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia. He has served this church since 1965. Price is known for his speaking and writing. This is his 10th book with Broadman.

The contemporary minister struggles with the idea of the "success syndrome." This has led many ministers to believe the only real success in the

ministry is in pastoring or serving a "super-church." The result is ministers who take on the role of "celebrities" instead of the New Testament concept of the "servant." Thus, the title of the book, "Servants Not Celebrities."

The book is organized into nine chapters. Each chapter is essentially a sermon on the concept of servanthood. Each sermon is alliterated which is the author's custom. Price is well-read author. This is obvious from the illustrations used in the book. Price also uses some excellent word-studies.

The pastor might find this book helpful in delivering a series of messages on servanthood. Clergy and laity alike would profit from reading this book.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

The CHRISTIAN SPEAKER'S TREASURY; Ruth A. Tucker; Harper and Row, San Francisco, 1989; hardback, 383 pages.

Tucker, who has a Ph.D. in history, and is a visiting professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, has compiled a truly unique illustration book. The anecdotes and quotations are arranged by a woman with a special focus on Christian women's issues. A survey of topics in the first three letters of the alphabet includes the

topics: abortion, adoption, alcoholism, beauty, birth control, breast-feeding, capital punishment, etc. Under "Ordination," Tucker quotes a prayer for ordaining a woman in the early church. Quotations are given both for and against women ministers.

This book is unlike other Christian illustration books in other ways. It covers some subjects rarely seen in such works: animal welfare, civil rights, consumer fraud, dieting, feminism, incest, masturbation, menstruation, obesity, racism, and sex discrimination. Tucker avoids the kind of sentimental and patronizing stories found in other books, and poetry is rarely used. One may wonder if the topics are so worldly that they do not relate much to Christian preaching. On the other hand, Tucker is to be commended for attempting to deal with many ethical issues that are overlooked in other illustration works.

Tucker's book is unique, but it also includes popular topics such as God, love, and missions. Illustrations are arranged topically, but there is no table of contents to list the topics. Overall, Tucker's book takes a refreshingly different approach to compiling Christian illustrations, making it a worthwhile addition to any collection of illustration books. — Reviewed by Bob Rogers, pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Prison ministry results in 'cell-block churches'

By Maxine Stewart

A prison ministry team, sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, Bangkok, Thailand, heads a monthly prison ministry in two prisons there. At Bangkwang Maximum Security Prison, the first baptismal group of 137 inmates has resulted in five "cell-block churches." (These are not constituted churches, but groups that function as churches.)

When another 213 baptisms followed, this resulted in two more "cell-block churches." There are now seven "cell-block churches" meeting weekly with their own leaders, in addition to meeting with the team.

"The 'cell-block churches' have 47 leaders who maintain and encourage the ongoing growth and well-being of their charges — who number an average of 20-35 members a week," says missionary Jim Bryant, pastor of Calvary Church, team leader. Leadership training is conducted by the prison ministry team.

"Two primary prisoner 'enablers' have authorization to travel between cell-blocks to effect their work," Bryant points out. In April 1990, prison authorities informed the team that they had been observing the Christian work and were favorably impressed with its impact on the attitudes and behavior of inmates involved. They said that they wanted to study the team's methods and materials and to

aid them in any way they could.

The team's monthly meetings continue to have between 200-300 in attendance. Local Baptist pastors Daniel Chang and Soontorn Soonthorn-tarawong work exclusively with Chinese and Thai inmates. Soonthorn-tarawong is the main leader in this part of the ministry as primary contact and coordinator with prisoners, "cell-block church" leaders, and prison authorities. "His efforts and dedication have played a significant role in the ministry's growth," states Bryant.

The team's ministry at the Prem Prison's monthly meetings draws between 20-50 foreign prisoners. Thai prisoners are not allowed to participate. Four hundred and sixty attended the Bangkwang Prison Christmas program. In the Bangkwang work, a Bible study correspondence course has 148 prisoners involved.

"We ask your prayer support as we work with prisoners in extending the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour behind bars in Thailand," requests Bryant. "Pray specifically for the 300-plus new Christians who have been reached through our ministry, and the 500 total Christians that the team has discovered in Bangkwang's population of over 5,000. Pray for the 'support ministry' carried on by pastor Soonthorn-tarawong. He receives at least 50 letters each month from prisoners sharing their needs and/or needs of their families, and sharing testimonies of how God is working to change their lives."

Stewart is missionary press representative, Thailand.

Ephesus celebrates pastor's anniversary

By Patty Callahan

Ephesus Church, Forest, set aside July 8 as Pastor Appreciation Day for Kenneth Jones and his wife, Thenetia, to celebrate their 25 years of service.

Brother Jones is a loving, tender, compassionate man who faithfully preaches the Word of God to us at Ephesus. He has a unique insight into people, as though he can look into our hearts and see what we are feeling. In contrast, he has a terrific sense of humor. There isn't an ounce of pretense about him, and we all admire that. Above all, he is a tireless worker for God and his family and friends.

His bountiful garden could supply food for the community, and to a large degree, does. He is never idle. If he isn't riding the lawnmower with his straw hat shading his brow, he may be at a neighbor's house floating out sheetrock, plucking chickens, staining cabinets, or whatever. His heart overflows with love that is evidenced by unending acts of kindness. He is a deeply spiritual man who faithfully leads us, teaches us, supports us, but most of all loves us and truly makes us a church family.

The Jones family as a whole is special. Their house is a home in every sense of the word. Its doors are never closed to anyone. They have cared for children, friends, loved ones, and people who became friends and loved ones. Their house is the gathering place and there's always something to eat. (All of them are wonderful cooks, including Brother Jones.) Sometimes there's Cajun gumbo, sometimes steak, or you may get biscuits and "sawmill" gravy — it doesn't matter.

The church's minister of music, Nell Adams, came up with the idea for the special day. The committee that carried out the plans awaited the fruits of their labor, like wide-eyed children on Christmas morning waiting for

wrapping paper and ribbons to be torn off boxes.

Sunday School was over, and the sanctuary filled. Mrs. Latayne Robinson designated Brother Jones as honoree of the day. Brenda Pierce pinned a red rosebud on his lapel. Special recognition was given to Thenetia and to the pastor's mother, Mrs. Trudie Jones. Both received white rosebud corsages.

Our church has grown in many ways under the leadership of Brother Jones. The second pastorium, of which the Joneses have been first and only occupants, the education building, and our new sanctuary are physical evidences of our growth; but the increase in our membership and the love shared by all are proof of our spiritual growth. Our buildings would be empty without God in our midst.

A plaque of appreciation was presented by Chester Robinson, chairman of deacons, and read to the congregation by Patty Callahan.

Billy Walker led in a responsive reading written by Nell Adams. Willie Lee Culpepper, deacon, offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Mark and Carol Ann Jones, the pastor's son and daughter, presented special music. Then Brother Jones filled the pulpit, undaunted by the preceding events and seemingly unaware that it was 11:50 a.m.!

After his sermon and his favorite hymn of invitation, "Just As I Am," Brother Jones thought it was all over, but Pete Riser asked him to come back to the pulpit.

He was presented a big white box and told to open it — PLEASE! (Remember the children at Christmas?) Then Carol Barber read a long list of adjectives — "loyal, loving, kind, compassionate, talented" — describing Thenetia — and presented her a small box. (A surprised look appeared on her face.) Brother Jones



Thenetia and Kenneth Jones

box contained a charcoal gray suit, a new white shirt, tie, and socks. He looked at his wife's small box and quipped, "If that's a dress in there, it's gone be too little." But her box contained a gold watch surrounded by diamonds — to match the tears in her eyes.

A reception from 2 to 4 featured a tiered cake baked and decorated by two members of the church, Graden and Estelle Crimm.

Letters had been collected and placed in scrapbooks for the Joneses, including those from first graders saying "I love you" and one saying "Them sermons sure are long."

Announcement had been made that Brother Jones' cousin from Texas, J. C. Rushing, would preach Sunday night. When the pastor saw a nearly full sanctuary, he thought that was the reason. But it was another. Robert Miles walked to the pulpit and said, "Brother Jones, This Is Your Life!"

There were seven surprise guests for the "This Is Your Life" program. The first was Mark, the Joneses' son,

who supposedly had returned to Gulfshore Assembly with young people from Trinity Church, Carthage, where he is minister of music. Mark's wife, Gale, and two children, Melanie and Brian, were also there. Robert Miles led in a moment of remembering David, oldest son of the Joneses, who died in an automobile accident.

At this point, the floor was opened to anyone who wanted to recall memories or feelings they have for the Jones family. Janet Culpepper had written a song. One member who works at the funeral home came down the aisle saying, "It's not over till the undertaker has his turn!" Brother Jones replied, "Well, I got my suit this morning!"

The two scrapbooks full of letters were presented. The Joneses expressed their appreciation.

We closed the service with everyone singing "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place." Indeed, there was.

Patty Callahan is a member of Ephesus Church.

Federal court upholds rights of Bible club

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — Public school officials in Tennessee broke federal law by not allowing a group of Christian students to form a Bible club, a federal court in Nashville ruled Aug. 2.

U.S. District Court Magistrate William J. Haynes Jr. ruled that the Wilson County School Board violated the federal Equal Access Act by prohibiting Jeremy Perger, 16, Todd Hammons, 15, and about 50 of their friends from having a Bible club at Mt. Juliet High School.

Rutherford Institute attorneys filed the lawsuit last October after Principal Robert Bucey denied permission for the students to form a Bible club and meet for 30 minutes during home room, as about 20 non-religious student groups were allowed to do.

In granting summary judgment to the students, Haynes relied on the U.S. Supreme Court's June 4 ruling involving the denial of a student Bible club at a public high school in Omaha. In *Westside v. Mergens*, the High Court upheld by 8 to 1 the constitutionality of the 1984 Equal Access Act. That act requires public high schools with non-curricular student clubs to grant "equal access" to clubs regardless of religious or philosophical views.

One of the best ways to lose a friend is to tell him something for his own good.

Ability is of little account without opportunity. — Napoleon



Intercessory prayer becomes an important part of Tuesday night's opening ceremony of the Baptist World Congress in Seoul, Korea. (BWA photo by Paul Obregon)

Coming back to Korea: Americans remember the war

SEOUL, Korea BWA) — Seoul, Korea, was bombed nearly every night when Luther Lewis was a young army private in 1952.

Beggars filled the streets and poverty was rampant. But the Korean people were hospitable, and he says that has not changed.

Lewis, now a National Baptist Laymen's Choir member from Chicago, has returned to Korea for the 16th Baptist World Congress and sees a nation developed and changed.

But Lewis said old men he meets on the streets still "just glow" when he tells them about the years he served here.

"They say, 'G.I., you number one. You helped save my country,'" Lewis said.

Fellow choir member Gene Turner, of Dallas, Texas, has regained much of the Korean language he learned while serving here in 1951 and 1957. He's planning to return to visit Kusan, where he was stationed, to look up old friends.

Korean people still have that same "down-to-earth friendliness," he says, but adds that attitudes have changed. Men at that time just wanted to care for their families and fields.

"Now they want to advance more," Turner explained.

Coming to Korea, however, was a difficult decision for Minnie Bruce, former president and a founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention women's organization. She vowed she could never come here when her oldest son was declared dead, after three years on the missing in action list.

"Through the years, the Lord has given me strength. For a long time, I couldn't talk about it. But my church prayed and my friends prayed and that made the difference," Bruce remembered.

While touring the city during the congress, she saw Korean soldiers and "that brought back memories."

Don Jones, a Southern Baptist missionary from the United States, first

came to Korea as a U.S. Army Bandman in 1947. Seoul had fewer than a million people and the streets were very narrow.

"In the winter, there was no running water. It was frozen until spring," Jones said.

But in spite of all the poverty, Jones had never confronted more joyous Christians.

"American Christians had so many things. They didn't have to pray for their daily needs, but Koreans had to pray for food, even getting their kids in school. They lived on the edge of desperation and yet they knew where their help came from," he explained.

The spiritual explosion so evident in Korea today came out of those difficult times, Jones said. God has a plan for the nation's economic development.

"Koreans have been blessed materially for a spiritual purpose. Now Koreans can reach out to the world," he said.

International musicians participate

For the 16th Baptist World Congress, Seoul, Korea, Aug. 14 to 19, musical groups come from Nagaland, India, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the Philippines, and the United States.

Every day at the congress, a Korean choir sang and Korean musicians performed during the congress sessions or at the pre-congress meetings and the nightly festival of music and art on the walkway to the Olympic gymnasium. The Korean women wore national dresses on opening and closing nights of the congress.

Among the internationally well-known and beloved hymns and choruses sung at the congress were three Korean hymns, "Living with Christ," "The Lord has Called Me," and "There is a Redeemer."

Directors for congregational singing were Daniel Lee, Korea; Colin Rudall, England; Houston Simmons and Leroy Yarbrough, USA; Fred Spann, Brazil; and, Walter Wan, Hong Kong. Directors announced hymns in English and Korean. At every congress session, a Korean director co-directed the congregational singing.

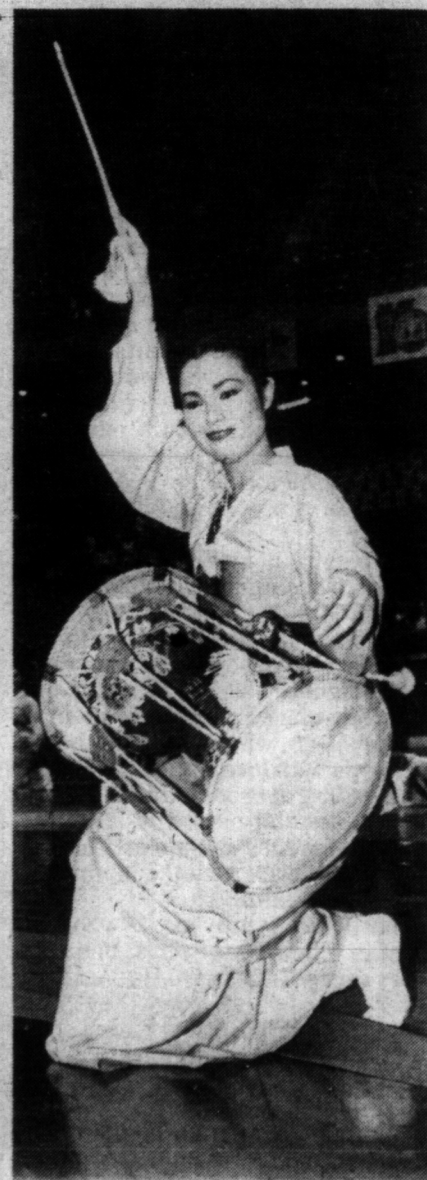
All joined in singing the congress chorus, "Together in Christ," which was specifically written for the 16th Baptist World Congress by Benjamin Harlan, assistant professor of church music at New Orleans Seminary; Joe Trull, associate professor of Christian ethics at New Orleans Seminary; and, Paul Williams, minister of music at Calvary Church in Little Rock, Ark.

Orchestration for all music was provided by Word Music and Broadman Music.

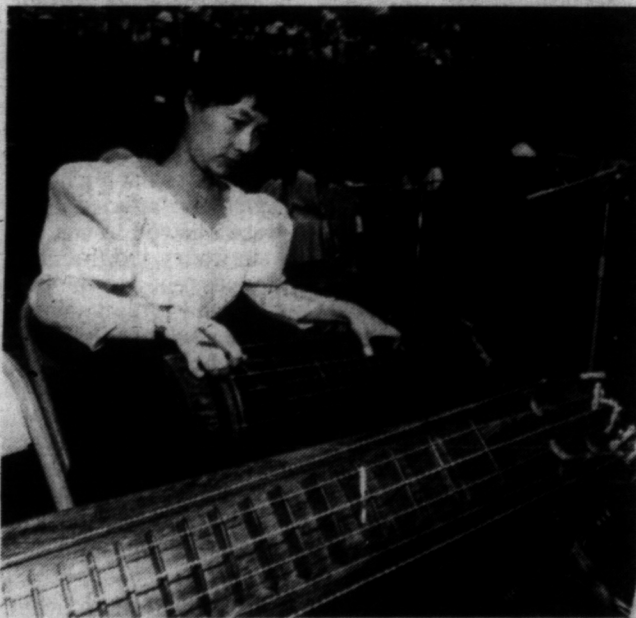
Yarbrough, chairman of the Division of Church Music Ministries at New Orleans Seminary, was music coordinator for the congress.



Estonian cellist, Allar Kaasik, performs for delegates Tuesday night. (BWA photo by Deborah Aronson-Griffith)



Traditional dance always adds color to any story-telling episode. The story of the 16th Baptist World Congress is a story about people telling their stories, Baptist people sharing the gospel. Folk dancers, including this one, performed after the close of the opening session of the congress. (BWA photo by Paul Obregon)



Kim Soo Yeong at the zither was part of the orchestra that accompanied the 1,000-voice Korean choir. (BWA photo by Paul Obregon)



Keith Parks, speaker at the welcoming rally on Monday night, appears with interpreter on giant screen. (BWA Photo by Deborah Aronson-Griffin)

Wind revenge

SEOUL, Korea — South Korean Christians have grown rapidly in recent years because of their strong witnessing, and many are eager to witness in North Korea if the border is ever opened.

Since travel to the north is forbidden, Christian groups have tried some innovative alternatives. One group studied wind patterns carefully, then launched hundreds of helium-filled balloons, each carrying a copy of the Gospel of John.

They were happy with their effort as the booklet floated north across the border. Later, however, they noticed balloons floating back from North Korea, each carrying a booklet marked "The Gospel of John."

When the books were opened, they were found to be books of communist propaganda.

World Baptists meet in Seoul, Korea

WORLD CONGRESS

From page 3

Saturday evening, delegates recited together the Seoul Covenant, a challenge to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person around the world by the end of this century. BWA officials said they hoped Baptists would take the covenant back to their countries. Tony Cupit, the covenant's author, an Australian who is the newly elected BWA director of evangelism and education, said "We are calling for people to gossip the gospel."

Among six resolutions that participants adopted in less than three minutes was one to endorse the Seoul Covenant. In other business, they denounced religious persecution and intolerance and called for movements for peace, justice, and preservation of the natural creation. They expressed "Christian compassion for the families of South Korea and North Korea who have been separated for 44 years."

Denton Lotz said North Korean Christians had been invited to attend the congress, but no response had been received. Again and again, congress leaders prayed for God to open doors into North Korea and China and parts of the Soviet Union where the gospel message is hindered.

In business sessions, delegates elected two Southern Baptists as leaders. Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, was elected as vice president. Catherine Allen, executive director of Samford University's Sesquicentennial Commission and a former Woman's Missionary Union executive, was elected president of the Women's Department. Eleven other vice presidents were also elected.

Koreans have the reputation of being the friendliest people in the world. They turned on all their warmest hospitality as hosts for Baptists.

More than 50,000 Koreans gathered in the Olympic Stadium for a welcoming ceremony Monday night. As with penlights they brightened the dark stadium, they cried, "Go to the world!"

"People all over the world tonight are waiting for someone to tell them the name of the one (God) they have been searching for," said the featured speaker, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC. Parks' image and that of his interpreter, were projected on a giant screen. "In a way never before since the days of Jesus," he continued, "God is opening doors. This is God's right time. He is stirring Baptists to do new and mighty things. Any message we are willing to pay the price to send, anywhere in the world, will get there." (At that moment a bird, in the lights resembling a white dove, flew over the length of the stadium.) And the speaker went on, "Too often Christians do the wrong thing at the right time."

A Korean choir, robed in white, sang the "Hallelujah Chorus." The mayor of Seoul, Koh Kun, welcomed the foreign visitors.

The Grace High School Band led a parade of national flags, followed by Korean church leaders, missionaries, and pastors.

As is Korean custom, many of the nation's 1,600 Baptist churches had brought gifts for foreign delegates attending the ceremony.

Russian pastor, Gennadi Mukin, opened the gift handed to him by a Korean high school girl. When he lifted the golden cross from its box, he said, "I will put this in the best place in my house."

Among the Baptist delegates in Seoul was Morris Chapman, president

of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a Mississippian. Noting that this was his first experience with the BWA and his first visit in Asia, he told one reporter he was "greatly moved by the spirit of the Korean people who have come to know Christ," and expressed the desire "to capture some of the spirit I sense among Korean Baptists for all of our Baptist people in America."

No less than the prime minister of Korea, Young-Hoon Kang, gave a welcoming address, Aug. 14.

"This propitious gathering," he said, "where you congregate with the common theme of 'Together in Christ,' overflows with the holy love of God . . . It is my belief that in order to overcome the crises which the human race faces today, it is both crucial and urgent to promote a sound, wholesome spirit in mankind. This is best done by sowing the seeds of faith and hope throughout the world. For this reason, the expectations placed on you Christians are now greater than ever before."

"I am confident that it is leadership in spiritual renewal as inspired by the gospels of Jesus Christ, rather than institutions and laws, that can do the most to save humankind from ruin and restore human dignity."

"Together in Christ" — The long list of international speakers built their message around this theme.

Wumpelmann in beginning his presidential term claimed that the church's geographical center is moving away from Europe and North America toward the east and south, which he called the "two-thirds" world, and he pledged attention to Baptists in those areas.

Charles Adams, amid loud applause, called for more love among Baptists. President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention in the United States, he said, "We find it more convenient to be identified by the book we carry than by the love we demonstrate . . . To our shame, love is perhaps the most neglected phenomenon in the church today . . . We would rather follow the dictates of Robert's Rules of Order than to obey Jesus' new commandment to love . . ."

"It was love, not purity of doctrine, not rigor or logic, not perfection of morals and manners, not scriptural inerrancy, it was the power of unfeigned love that turned the Greco-Roman world upside down and transformed pagan culture into Christian culture . . . God is love! Together in Christ, we must love."

Soviet pastor Sergei Nikolaev implored Baptists to "pray to the Lord to reveal his glory" and believe God is ready to do the impossible. Nikolaev is pastor of the Leningrad church in which Mississippi students worked as volunteers in recent weeks.

"Today there is a place for the power of God," he said. "There is a place for miracles when people all over the world pray." He credited prayer with helping start a revival in Russia and he said prayer can bring about a united Korea.

"People around the world are tired of words," he declared. "They want to see Jesus. So let's pray together in the spirit of faith and remember what is impossible for man is possible for God." He spoke in English while an interpreter translated his message into Korean from the platform. Other interpreters used radio transmitters to translate the sermon into a half dozen other languages, one of them Russian.

When the entire Soviet delegation stood and sang "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," people clapped in (See **WORLD CONGRESS** on page 13)



The Roll Call of Nations brings presentation of banners at Tuesday night's opening session of the Baptist World Congress. (BWA Photo by Paul Obregon)



Women in national costumes from Sweden, Norway, and Japan join in the hymn singing Tuesday night. (BWA photo by Paul Obregon)



Koreans prepare gifts for foreigners during the welcoming ceremonies at the Baptist World Congress Monday night, Aug. 13. (BWA Photo by Paul Obregon)

Romanian woman detained, sent back

Rodica Cocar wasn't trying to rack up frequent flier mileage. She just wanted to get to the Baptist World Congress meeting in Seoul.

But she almost didn't. Cocar was invited by the BWA Women's Dept. to speak on the state of Romania's church during their 9th annual session.

As soon as Cocar knew she was coming to the congress, she began checking with the Korean embassy in Romania to obtain the necessary paperwork. But because the Korean embassy in Romania did not have an office for issuing visas, she was told to get it in Amsterdam as she left the European continent for Korea.

When she arrived, Cocar requested the visa. "They told me I didn't need a visa because I would be in the country less than 15 days. They also implied that I could get a visa in Seoul somehow."

The manner in which Cocar was treated en route to Seoul was a stark

contrast to the way she was received in Seoul.

"I flew elegantly to Seoul," she said describing the business class seat she received due to a mixup by KLM airline.

But when she arrived in Seoul, her two-hour nightmare began.

Because she had no visa and was from a country the immigration officials described as one with which Korea does not have diplomatic relations, Cocar was detained.

"They asked me all kinds of questions such as describe your job," she said. Cocar is a secretary for the Baptist Union of Romania.

Cocar sat and waited in the immigration office. During the two hours, she saw foreigners after foreigners come through and obtain temporary visas. But they wouldn't give her one.

"I was desperate," she said. They had taken her return airline ticket and

torn it to pieces, refused her admission to the country and promised to find her a seat on the next flight home.

Cocar begged for a chance to talk with the highest official to plead her case. He wouldn't talk with her, she said. The men working with her kept saying, "We are terribly sorry, but we cannot give you a visa," she said.

The immigration officer in Seoul implied that the Korean embassy in Amsterdam was at fault and should reimburse her ticket to Seoul, Cocar said. "I was hopeful that I'd get a free ticket back to Seoul."

Cocar went immediately to the Korean embassy once she reached Amsterdam. They were very helpful and promised to get her a visa but said that a return ticket was impossible, Cocar said.

The finances for the return trip were the major obstacle left for Cocar to hurdle. Finally, she called the Euro-

(See **ROMANIAN** on page 13)

Country Woods Church constitutes



Country Woods charter member families are shown. B. T. Robbins, music director, is at far right. Gary Bunch, pastor, and his family are to Robbins' left.

By Anne W. McWilliams

Two-year-old Country Woods Mission in south Jackson became Country Woods Church in a constitution service Aug. 12. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, sponsored the mission, for which charter members totalled 51.

On program at the 2:30 p.m. service were Ken Alford, Morrison Heights pastor; Robert Wall, interim pastor for the mission's first year; J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison director of missions; and Gary Bunch, Country Woods pastor.

The congregation meets in a double wide trailer, property of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Plans are underway for construction of a building next year. "We will begin in March, if weather and money permit," said Pastor Bunch. "The church

hopes that volunteers, not only from Hinds-Madison Association, but from across the state, will help us build." Teams interested in doing that may contact the pastor now about the scheduling for next spring or summer. (Church address: 6737 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Church phone: 371-7955. Pastor's home phone: 371-4470).

In the spring of 1988, Morrison Heights Church conducted a survey on Siwell Road near Byram, and found that a need existed for a church in the growing area. The church appointed a missions committee with Doye Robbins as chairman, and James Marbury, Billie Lynn Arthur, Lois Henderson, and Dan Wesson as additional members.

The first service was held Aug. 14,

1988, with Robert Wall, member of Morrison Heights Church and the Mississippi College staff, preaching. B. T. Robbins of Morrison Heights became the music director and Lois Henderson the pianist. Lamar Nail assisted as Sunday School teacher.

Hinds-Madison Association bought the five-acre site for \$60,000; it is to be deeded to the newly constituted church, and the church will repay the association.

Also the association contributed chairs. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Browning of Morrison Heights gave a piano to the mission. Marjean Patterson, Morrison Heights member who is director of the state WMU Department, gave an organ. Van Winkle Church, Jackson, donated a baby grand piano for use in the new sanctuary when it

is completed. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, gave a pulpit stand and 75 songbooks. Morrison Heights has stored the pews from the church's old chapel for use later in the Country Woods sanctuary.

Almost a year after the first service, Country Woods Mission called Gary Bunch as pastor, in July, 1989. He moved to Jackson from a pastorate in Irvington, Ky. His hometown is Starkville. His wife, Connie, from Aberdeen, served with the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, in Japan.

In the beginning, all the Sunday School teachers were from Morrison Heights. Now they are all from the new church. Too, Country Woods members have been added to the Missions Committee — Richard Baker, Nancy Brock, Sherri Johnson, Gene Dunaway, and Jackie Wallace.

In Sunday School, Country Woods has a class for each age group except youth. (So far, not many young people have attended; when they have, they studied with the adults.) About half the enrollment are children and preschoolers.

Already the church has Woman's Missionary Union and its GAs, Mission Friends, Baptist Women, and Baptist Young Women. Also there's an RA. "This is a good record of organizations for such a young church," said Doye Robbins. The missions committee chairman pointed out, "It's a real plus that the mission started out from the beginning with 10 percent of the budget marked for Cooperative Program and three percent for Hinds-Madison Association. The congregation gives real good to special missions offerings, too. They gave \$1,750 to the Annie Armstrong Offering this year and \$1,157 for Lottie Moon."

This summer, the Vacation Bible School enrolled 42 (over half of whom were not from Country Woods). As a result, two or three families have shown an interest in the church, said the pastor. And he added, "We are committed to reaching out to the lost

in the community. We have started an Evangelism Explosion ministry."

Even though we are in the Bible Belt," he continued, "church planting is still slow. You have to let the people get to know you. We have had softball and other activities on the grounds to let people know who we are, and that we are here."

When a group of volunteers from Illinois came to Jackson to work at Crestwood Baptist Center, Country Woods was host church for their commissioning service. "Since we were a mission, all of us are especially interested in missions," said Bunch. "We are growing in leadership abilities. We are looking for the third year to be a stupendous year."

And Robbins affirmed, "I believe a good foundation has been laid."



Gary Bunch, pastor, straightens letters on the sign advertising the construction of Country Woods Church, Jackson.

Hightower will speak Key Leader Seminar

"The Power of Listening" and "Preaching Caring Sermons" are two of the topics which will be discussed during a Key Leader Seminar at the Baptist Building in Jackson, Sept. 11.

The seminar's title is "Called to Care: Helping People Through Pastoral Care." Sponsor is the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

To register for the seminar, write the department at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, enclosing \$10 per person to cover cost of lunch, a book, and seminar resources.

Principal speaker will be James Hightower, consultant in the pastoral leadership section of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He will be teaching his book which is titled the same as the conference.

Other topics for the program include "Pastoral Care: The Shepherd's Heritage," "Caregivers Caring for Themselves," and "Learning Through Case Studies/Learning From Each Other."

The program begins at 9 a.m. and ends at approximately 3 p.m.

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Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Point of no return

Editor:

For several weeks I have been intending to write you and thank you for taking a strong stand on the continuing battles within our convention. This morning in *The Clarion-Ledger* another article appeared identifying you in its headline ("State Baptist editor backs fledgling news service"). That article, and consequently your actions made me proud of our state convention and the persons like you who are being prophetic and, hence, vulnerable.

I think we all agree that we have reached the point of no return — our convention will never return to the approximate position it was in the late 60s and 70s. However, with the upcoming meeting in Atlanta (Aug. 23-25), we are finally approaching actions that will help preserve the "genius" of the Southern Baptist Convention and will, hopefully, provide enough alternatives to prevent many churches from leaving our convention, emotionally if not literally.

Thanks for courageously using your power in a prophetic way.

Gary L. Bagley, pastor
First Church Meridian

Get on with task

Editor:

Congratulations to Marvin E. Taylor for his letter to the editor in the Aug. 9 issue of the *Baptist Record* in which he brought order out of chaos, at least for me, by directing our attention to *The Baptist Faith and Message*, chapter 2, that was authored by Dr. Herschel Hobbs and committee and adopted by the SBC in 1963. "The Bible is a book of religion intended to show mankind his reason for being, who he is, where he is going, and how to get there with the least pain and the greatest joy and fulfillment. God is a jealous God; He will not compete with any other gods, man, or beast. If any man tries to rise to power on the backs of God's people, he will fail as did the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus's day."

This writer has been a Christian and Baptist for 58 years, so maybe an admonition won't be out of place: Let's love each other (God is love), pray for each other, and forgive each other as Jesus Christ has forgiven us, and get on with our commission to tell everyone in the world the great good news of the gospel message. Time

passes quickly. It is later than you think.

Shirley Alexander
Moss Point

Erosion of freedom

Editor:

On this past Fourth of July I began to reflect on the condition in our nation and on what our nation is supposed to stand for. I certainly did feel glad to be living in this country rather than in any of the other countries of the world. We still enjoy freedoms that we would not enjoy in many other nations. But still I fear that we are allowing many of these freedoms gradually to slip from us by erosion.

The First Amendment in our United States Constitution states that Congress shall make no laws establishing any religion, but it also states that congress is not to pass any laws forbidding the free exercise of religion. Yet in our public schools voluntary prayer and Bible study is forbidden. It seems that even the mention of God's name is forbidden there. I see that as a violation of the First Amendment when school authorities forbid teachers or students to pray and to study their Bibles voluntarily.

Unborn babies in the wombs are not safe in this nation anymore. I feel that their rights are being taken from them. I consider the 4,400 abortions that go on in America today to be mass bloody murder, and I don't understand the apathy on the part of professed Christians toward it. I fear

that it won't be long before they will come up with a ruling that will allow doctors to kill old people also because the old people have ceased to be productive. I consider doctors who perform abortions to be butchers and bloody murderers. I believe the same to the true of mothers and nurses and others who take part in this thing that I call a devilish practice.

There are many other things going on in our nation which I feel are wrong and are a threat to our freedoms such as gayism and lesbianism, along with sex practiced outside of marriage.

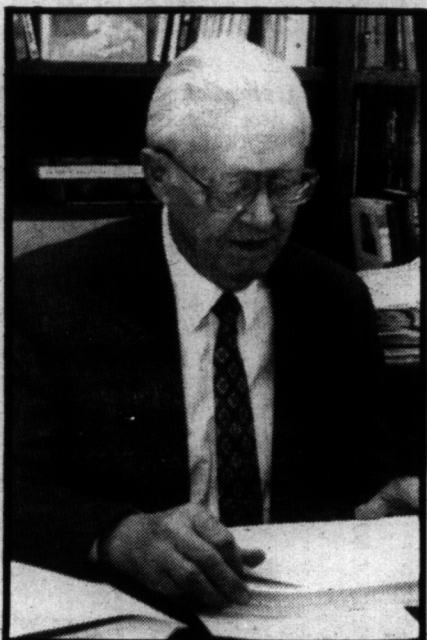
I also think that our courts are condoning criminals too much.

I feel that it is our duty as Christians to convince our nation that the only way that we can remain free and independent is for us to become more dependent on God. "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

Walter McCraw
Long Beach

Surely you are correct regarding abortion and the other matters in your letter. You would be correct also regarding prayer in the public school if the conditions you outlined were allowed to exist. Congress has passed an equal access law, however, which dictates that students will be allowed to enter into voluntary Bible study and prayer when they do not interfere with school activities. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs helped to bring this law into fruition. — Editor

John Newport leaving legacy of scholarship at Southwestern



Newport

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — To many religion scholars, John Newport is known as a "Constructive Evangelical."

Those academicians view Newport as constructive because of his willingness to dialogue honestly with theologians of other beliefs, and evangelical because of his unwavering stand for Jesus Christ.

One of his former students, Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, describes Newport from a similar view. "He has helped his students put together the diverse strands of knowledge from various intellectual disciplines into a consistent worldview."

For more than 35 years, John Newport has expanded the religious worldview of students at Southwestern. He retired July 31 from the seminary.

And while Newport traveled across the United States and throughout the world, he found his home on the

Southwestern campus.

"I've had a wonderful experience here at Southwestern," said Newport, who will leave a 35-year legacy of scholarship and leadership. "I found here a remarkable balance between scholarship and evangelism, between the theoretical and practical," he said. "Nobody could ask for a greater opportunity in terms of the fellowship on the faculty and working with the administration."

Newport first joined the Southwestern faculty in 1952, teaching philosophy of religion and Christian apologetics. He left in 1976 to become professor of religious studies at Rice University in Houston. He returned only three years later to work alongside Dilday as vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Especially significant, Dilday said, is Newport's contribution to Southern Baptist apologetics, which "is already immeasurable in the lives of hundreds of students who are now serving around the world as ministers and missionaries. It can be observed also in the lives of young academicians who have been enlisted to join the faculty at Southwestern, and colleagues in theological education who have been inspired by his scholarship."

"I try to convey to my students a sense of the relevance, the excitement, and the urgency of the Christian gospel," Newport said. "This is where true freedom is, where true joy is, where true fulfillment is."

In addition to his academic work, Newport has stayed in touch with the local church, serving as interim pastor for more than 50 congregations in Oklahoma, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

After retirement, Newport will continue to live in Fort Worth with his wife, Eddie Belle. He will be a special consultant to the president for academic research, and also will continue to conduct doctoral seminars in philosophy of religion.

Adult discipleship conference set

NASHVILLE — The National Conference on Adult Discipleship will be held at New Orleans Seminary Oct. 30-Nov. 1.

Jointly sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department, New Orleans Seminary, and the Discipleship Training departments of the Mississippi and Louisiana state conventions, the conference will offer church leaders practical guidance for discipling adults in the years ahead, according to Jerry Chapman, age-group specialist in the adult section of the SSB's discipleship training department.

The conference will provide methods for leading adults to grow spiritually, instruction on how to develop a program, and resource ideas for adult discipleship programs, Chapman said.

The registration fee of \$30 (\$15 for students) includes all materials but not housing or meals. Reservations can be made by writing National Conference on Adult Discipleship, MSN 151, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234; or calling Chapman at (615) 251-2726. Deadline for registration is Sept. 30.

Revival results

Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas (Union); Aug. 5-10; Jimmy McLendon, Linn, preacher; John Hickey, New Albany, music; 5 professions of faith, 7 rededications; David Blackwell, pastor.

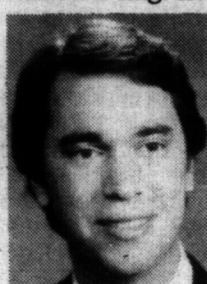
Branch Church, Morton (Scott): Aug. 5-8; Ken Harrison of Magee, preacher; music by Tim Robertson of Morton; 4 professions of faith; many rededications; 7 membership placements by letter; James Watts, pastor.

Fellowship Church, Mendenhall (Simpson): Aug. 12-17; Ken Harrison, Magee, evangelist; Tonja Madison, Forest, music; two professions of faith; 18 rededications; and one by letter; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.



Simpson

Bayou View Church of Gulfport has called Gary W. McCormick as pastor, effective Aug. 19. McCormick is moving from Searcy, Ark., where he was pastor at Trinity Church. He received a BA degree from Carey College and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. McCormick of Gulfport. McCormick and his family will reside at 4478 Kendall Circle.



McCormick

Ken Davis has been called as pastor of Union Church, Tylertown, in Walthall Association. His previous place of service was Sunrise Church, Petal.

Al Homer, Jr. has accepted the call as bivocational pastor of Dry Creek Church, Winston Association. Homer also serves as an alcohol-drug counselor at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian, where he recently completed a two-year residency as a mental health chaplain, and a two-year course of study in clinical pastoral education. He is also licensed and certified as a pastoral counselor by the National Christian Counselors Association of Kittanning, Penn., and serves as the regional director for the state of Mississippi.



Homer

Homer is a 1964 graduate of the Baptist Bible Institute (now Florida Baptist Theological College), and attended William Carey College.

Charles and Patricia Corey, missionaries to Guatemala, are on the field (address: Apartado 20, Bananera, Izabac, Las Casas, Guatemala). He was born in De Kalb, Ill., and she, the former Patricia Gilbert, in Meridian. Both consider Holly Springs their hometown.

Robert and Nan Sugg, missionaries to Taiwan, are on the field (address: University Rd., Lane 12, #1, Tainan 70102, Taiwan ROC). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Eupora. The former Nan Gregory, she was born in Clarksdale and grew up in Jackson.

Gerald and Glenda Davis, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: M.R.F.A., P. O. Box 10,013, MCC, Makati 1299, Philippines). He is a native of Carrollton, Ala. The former Glenda Brooks, she was born in Marks, and grew up in Batesville.

Wanted

Mission Service Corp. volunteer and/or bi-vocational youth/children worker to minister in a new, growing Southern Baptist church in Alaska. Call or write Pastor Bill Branch, P. O. Box 7496, Nikiski, Alaska 99635 or phone: (907) 776-8234.

Staff changes

Ron Simpson has accepted the call to pastor Walnut Church (Benton-Tippah). Simpson resigned from Temple Church, Union County, effective July 24.

Liberty Hill Church, Pope (Panola) has called Robert Catrett of Sardis as pastor, effective July 1. The Pascagoula native previously served at Union Church, Sardis. Catrett has served on church staffs in Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and also participated in pioneer missions in New York. Catrett received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Valerie Lynn Richmond has been called by the Larkin Avenue Church of Elgin, Ill. to serve as a bivocational minister of youth, effective Aug. 20.



Richmond

Valerie is a former member of the Alta Woods Church. She received her BA degree in art education from Mississippi College and her MA in religious education from Southwestern Seminary.

Meadville Church has called Larue Stephens as pastor. He goes to Meadville from Cedar Grove Church in Columbia. Stephens is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, where he is presently working on his doctorate.

First Church, Ridgeland (Hinds-Madison) has called Charles Fowler as minister of music and youth, effective July 29. A native of Corinth, Fowler received his education from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Kenner, La.



Fowler

was First Church, Kenner, La.

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Emeritus Southern Baptist missionary D. Leon Mitchell of Clovis, N. Mex., one of the first persons appointed as a career missionary business manager in Southern Baptist foreign missions, died June 3 in Dallas, Texas, of a heart attack. He was 65. Mitchell and his wife, the former Anne Moore of Dallas, Texas, were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries in 1957 and arrived in Indonesia in 1958.

John and Sarah Perkins, missionaries to France, are on the field (address: 1, rue Lord Byron, 37000 Tours, France). He was born in Montgomery, Ala. The former Sarah Grant, she was born in McComb, and considers Jackson, her hometown.

Roger and Penny Stacy, missionaries to Brazil, arrived in Mississippi on July 31, for furlough. Their address is 520 Magazine St., Tupelo, MS 38801.

Paul and Brenda Lee, missionaries to El Paso Baptist Publishing House, may be addressed at P. O. Box 4255, El Paso, Texas 79914. He is from Starkville, and she is the former Brenda Haggard of Louisville.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P. O. Box 99, Davao City, Philippines 8000). He is from Jackson, and she is the former Kathy Jennings of Kosciusko.

Buford Nichols, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary who helped establish the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary and earlier worked in China, died June 29 in Houston, Texas. He was 84. He and his late wife, Mary Frances, were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1936. They worked in China until they forced to leave in 1950 following the communist invasion.

Daniel and Sharon Bradley, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field (address: P. O. Box 2064, Kisumu, Kenya). He is a native of Gulfport. The former Sharon Freret, she was born in Gulfport and grew up in Saucier.

Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: Box 11512, 11346 Hardin Valley, Knoxville, Tenn. 37932). He was born in Florence, Ala. She is the former Veronica (Ronnie) Wheeler of Sandersville.

Steve and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 27 Kimberly Dr., Laurel, MS 39440). He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. The former Vidonia Smith, she was born in Houston, Texas, and considers White Oak her hometown.

capsules

Foreign missionaries will get increased financial support

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Increased financial support for career foreign missionaries and missionary associates received approval from Foreign Mission Board trustees at their July 23-26 meeting.

The increases, to become effective Jan. 1 as part of the 1991 budget, came after the first comprehensive study of the whole missionary support package in five years.

The package includes an increase in base salaries; higher U.S. cost-of-living supplements and rent supplements; increased disability coverage; and, for some, higher life insurance coverage. Annual pension contributions will remain at 10 percent but will automatically increase because of hikes in the factors on which they are based.

Arizona cuts budget by almost 6 percent

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — A pared-down budget for 1991 that cuts seven positions from the staff and trims \$315,000 from the 1990 budget has been adopted by the Executive Board.

Three of the seven positions are currently filled by missionaries jointly employed by the Arizona Convention and the Home Mission Board. The positions will be funded until the end of 1990.

The \$4,942,159 budget will be presented for approval at the Arizona Convention when it meets in November. The 1991 budget represents a 5.65 percent decrease from the 1990 budget.

During 1990, Cooperative Program unified receipts have not kept pace with the budget adopted last November, and in May the 1990 budget was reduced by \$315,000. ASBC Business Operations Manager Craig Jones attributed the decline to the economy and to "slowly-increasing income and rapidly-increasing expenses."

Arizona elects Stringer executive-director

By Elizabeth Young
PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer was unanimously elected executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention by the state's executive board Aug. 7.

Stringer, 62, has been living in Scottsdale, Ariz., since shortly after his retirement as executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1989.

Stringer's employment is subject to approval "by a two-thirds favorable vote of the messengers in an annual or special convention session," according to the Arizona convention's constitution.

If approved, Stringer will succeed Jack Johnson, who became president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission July 1.

"Breakthrough" must begin with individual churches

By Frank Wm. White
RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — While "Breakthrough" is the theme for the 1990-95 nationwide Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment emphasis, it must begin with growth in individual churches, Ken Marler, a Sunday School growth consultant, told pastors and ministers of education attending the Fast Track 2 Sunday School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Sunday School can be a catalyst for the achievement of Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention goal of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000, Marler, a consultant in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School division, said.

Churches are being asked to set goals to achieve a 9.1 percent increase in Sunday School enrollment during 1990-91, Marler pointed out.

"The goal is something any church can relate to, no matter what size it is. It's a goal that can be personalized to each church," he said.

Baptists chaplains provide ministry presence in Middle East

ATLANTA (BP) — As the world focuses on the Middle East, Southern Baptist chaplains are working behind the scenes to provide a ministry in the Persian Gulf countries.

At least 15 Southern Baptists are apparently among chaplains sent to the Middle East after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, although that number cannot be officially confirmed.

Bob Vickers, chaplain at Georgia's Fort McPherson, said he knows of chaplains sent with crews on ships carrying weapons to the gulf. "What an opportunity for ministry," he said, as he considered the environment on board ship during the nearly two-week voyage.

Chaplains routinely are sent with troops on deployment missions. Lew Burnett, director of military chaplaincy for the Home Mission Board, noted that chaplains were sent with troops into Panama, Grenada, and Honduras.

U.S.X. pulls porn

TUPELO, MS — The American Family Association says that the decision by U.S.X. Corporation to pull porn magazines from their Marathon Oil Company stores was a correct one. Marathon has approximately 1700 stores nationwide which operate under various names — Gastown, Bonded, Starvin' Marvin, Ecol, Cheker, Port Speedway, and Value.

AFA has been urging U.S.X. to pull the porn magazines for more than a year. "We express our appreciation to U.S.X. for their decision. We think it is the proper one. With a more family-oriented atmosphere, more family-oriented individuals will obviously feel comfortable shopping with them," said Donald E. Wildmon.

Southeastern students make history in Czechoslovakia

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A group of students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was the first group since before World War II to hold an open air evangelistic meeting in the town of Pisek, Czechoslovakia.

The seven students and one professor shared testimonies, preached, performed pantomimes, and sang for the crowd of about 120 people gathered in the Pisek city park.

After the meeting on the street the group distributed tracts to and mingled with the Czech people who had gathered. They were able to share the gospel and invite them to further evangelistic services held nightly in a local Baptist church.

"We saw evangelistic results at every meeting held in the churches. People were converted every time. I consider this a tremendous success in light of the backward condition of many of the churches in Czechoslovakia," said Phil Roberts, associate professor of evangelism and

church growth.

"Czechoslovakia is one of the hardest countries in Eastern Europe for evangelism because of the strong atheistic and anti-religious residue left after communism. While communism failed economically and politically, it did meet with a measure of success in Czechoslovakia in terms of its anti-religious propaganda," he said, adding "Prior to the communist takeover, Czechoslovakia had one of the smallest evangelical Christian communities in eastern Europe. As a result, many in the churches feared total extinction under the communist system."

"At the same time the people of Czechoslovakia are looking for an authentic and real Christian faith, which I believe they experienced while we were with them. Many of the churches are small but have a very meaningful testimony."

One convert the group saw was their Czech translator. He accepted Christ during one of their evening meetings.

Unofficial Missouri group affirms giving alternatives

COLUMBIA, Mo. (BP) — An unofficial group of 150 Missouri Baptists recommended a "Missouri Plan" for cooperative support of Southern Baptist Convention causes that would exclude financial support of the SBC Executive Committee and SBC Christian Life Commission, but provide support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Missouri pastors urged the Missouri Baptist Convention's executive board to recommend financial options other than undesignated giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget.

If the executive board declines to recommend such a plan for consideration by messengers to the Missouri convention in October, moderate pastors and laymen attending the convocation said they would introduce such options from the convention floor in Kansas City.

The convocation was advertised as a meeting for "Missouri Baptists

desiring to see trust, fellowship, inclusion and cooperation re-established in the SBC." Bart Tichenor, pastor of Little Bonne Femme Church which hosted the meeting, was elected as the group's moderator.

In addition to a "Missouri Plan" budget proposal, the group suggested as another option that Missouri Baptist churches consider channeling missions giving through a proposed Cooperating Baptist Missions Fund, which is expected to be established during a national meeting of moderate Baptists in Atlanta, Aug. 23-25.

Participants also adopted a memorial which calls for individual state conventions to elect representatives to serve on the SBC Executive Committee, the SBC Committee on Nominations and as trustees of SBC institutions. That proposal also will be presented to the MBC executive board, calling for the board to present the memorial for consideration by MBC messengers.

Baptist colleges to participate in Soviet book exchange

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Twelve Southern Baptist colleges and universities are among 33 U.S. educational institutions which will exchange reference books, including the Bible, with college libraries in the Soviet Union.

The unprecedented book exchange between the U.S. and Russian colleges is being arranged by First Foundations, Inc., of Memphis, Tenn., a non-profit, non-sectarian institution, and Inform-Systema of Moscow.

"Under terms of the agreement, First Foundations will send sets of four reference books reflecting United States culture to Inform-Systema which will distribute the books to university libraries in all Soviet republics," said Dick Jensen, president of First Foundations. "In return, Inform-Systema will send sets of four reference books about Soviet culture to be distributed to U.S. colleges which choose to participate in the plan."

The four reference books on United States culture include The Russian Synodal Edition of the Bible,

Webster's New World Dictionary, The Beginning of the Republic by Clarence B. Carson and The Story of the Constitution by Sol Bloom.

The reference books destined for American college libraries include the Soviet Encyclopedic Dictionary (Moscow), The World of History by B.A. Rybakov, Human Beings and Noosphere by N.N. Moiseev and Another Chance Won't Be Given (Moscow).

Southern Baptist educational institutions participating in the plan to date include Anderson College, Anderson, S.C.; Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; Mobile College, Mobile, Ala.; North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C.; Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Union University, Jackson, Tenn.; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Wingate College, Wingate, N.C.

Europeans dedicate lay academy

Guests from Hungarian Baptist churches, the Euporean Baptist Federation, the International Baptist Seminary in Switzerland, and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, dedicated the International Baptist Lay Academy on July 1, in Budapest, Hungary.

The school is in a new building on the grounds of the Hungarian Baptist seminary. It was constructed by volunteers from Hungary, Romania, and the United States — including Mississippians.



Laszlo Gerzsenyi, right, director of the new International Baptist Lay Academy, emphasized the importance of all four components of the title. Said Gersenyi, "It must be international; it must be Baptist and, therefore, faithful to the Bible; its target group is the layperson, yet it is an academy and must pay attention to doctrine." Errol Simmons former Mississippian, and a Southern Baptist missionary, (pictured, left) is assistant director of IBLA. The dedication took place in the new IBLA chapel. — (EBPS Photo by Carol Woodfin)

Great Commission Project moves into pilot phase

NASHVILLE — Training for 450 Great Commission Breakthrough consultants this fall will mark the beginning of a year-long pilot for a nationwide project which will eventually involve 7,000 Sunday School consultants providing customized help to 42,000 Southern Baptist churches and missions.

The 1990-95 Great Commission Plan includes personalized, comprehensive growth consultation for each church and customized training to help each church achieve evangelistic growth goals.

Trained consultants will develop a plan for each church, conduct a three-day training event and work with the church for follow-up training. Consultants may spend as long as a year developing and completing the plan with each church.

In the pilot phase from October 1990 to September 1991, consultants will work with 450 pilot churches to refine the plan before training for the larger corps of consultants begins in April 1992, according to Garry Insko, project coordinator in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division.

Woman challenged to follow God's call, Catherine Allen elected president

By Karen Benson

SEOUL, Korea (BWA) — In a women's leadership conference stuffed full with testimonies, Bible studies, workshops, a folklore extravaganza and major addresses, Baptist women from around the world were challenged Aug. 10-13 to let nothing stop them from following God's call in their lives.

The 9th Baptist World Alliance Women's Leadership Conference drew more than 400 women from 65 countries and six continental unions — Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, and the Southwest Pacific.

Edna Lee de Gutierrez of Mexico, president of the BWA Woman's Department, admonished the women to let nothing or no one limit them in answering the call of God.

Using the conference theme, "In Such a Time as This . . ." Gutierrez said there's no better time than the present to be women of God. "In such a time as this — a time of turbulence and wars, of alcoholism and drugs, of broken families, divorces and abandoned children, a time of illiteracy, injustice, and hunger this is the time where the Lord has placed us, in our

towns and cities, in the part of the world where we live, to witness to his redeeming love!"

She urged the women to be strongly dedicated to the Lord, to make bold decisions, and to be ready to dare to fulfill God's calling.

During daily Bible studies, Esther Byu admonished the women to follow the model of Esther, as found in the Bible. Byu is a staff member of the Christian Conference of Asia and is immediate past president of the Asian Baptist Women's Union.

In the Bible, Esther provides an excellent model of courage and patience in following God's timing, Byu said. Queen Esther waited for God's timing in taking a stand for her people in front of the king. "The phrase 'For such a time as this' does not refer to our time, but to God's time. We are called to be decisive and to choose in God's time," she said.

During the business session, the women elected new officers for the quinquennium 1990-1995. Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala., USA, was elected president, and Aduke Akinola of Ibadan, Nigeria, West Africa, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Allen is executive director of the Sesquicentennial Commission at Samford University in Birmingham. She formerly served on the staff of the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union and has written several books, including *The New Lottie Moon Story*, *A Century to Celebrate*, *History of Woman's Mission Union*, and *Laborers Together With God*.

Akinola is executive secretary of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of Nigeria. She was a high school teacher and principal for 32 years before retiring to devote her time to WMU work.

Benson writes for WMU, SBC.



"Together in Christ" is the theme advertised on Korean pastors' T-shirts as they march in the welcoming ceremony at the Olympic stadium for the Baptist World Congress in Seoul. (BWA photo by Paul Obregon)

Germany recovers priceless jewel-encrusted manuscript

QUEDLINBURG, East Germany (EP) — A priceless manuscript of the four Gospels dating from the ninth century, written in gold and encased in a jewel-encrusted gold and silver binding, has been recovered by Germany after an American G.I. allegedly took it from a German mineshaft after World War II.

The treasure is being returned anonymously, and the American party returning it is being paid a "finder's fee" of \$3 million.

The four Gospels were inscribed in gold in 840 A.D. by a ninth-century monk, probably for the imperial court. Later, the manuscript was given to the Quedlinburg Cloister, a medieval castle town, where it remained for more than a thousand years. The town, which became part of East Germany after the war, will receive the Gospels when Germany is reunited.

The Quedlinburg treasures, which include the Gospels and other items, disappeared around the end of World War II. In the days just before the end of the war, the treasures were taken from the Quedlinburg cloister and hidden in a mine shaft near the town. On April 18, 1945, American troops entered the town, and several days later the pieces were discovered missing. Although some of the soldiers stationed in the town were questioned, little more was done to investigate the theft; and, until now, the pieces were never found. The Gospels are the first to be recovered.

In March of this year, Klaus C.

Maurice, secretary general of West Germany's Cultural Foundation of the States, a private organization which was created to recover cultural property for Germany, said he was told that the manuscripts had been taken to Switzerland where an anonymous Texan had tried to sell them. He was offered an opportunity to bid on the manuscripts, but was told that if his offer was not large enough, they would be taken to Japan for sale.

Maurice offered the \$3 million as a "finder's fee" and agreed that the identification of the seller would never be revealed. "A manuscript of this age and pedigree is absolutely a national treasure," Maurice told the New York Times. Maurice said he was willing to pay the fee for the manuscripts rather than have them disappear again. He said he does not believe that legal measures would recover them.

A West German official who has been searching for the stolen treasures said that he learned earlier that some of the pieces were in Texas. He believes that it is possible that an American soldier stole at least some of the pieces while stationed in Quedlinburg and took them back to the U.S. He further speculated that the man died in 1986, when rumors of the whereabouts of the treasure began to circulate and seemed to lead to Texas; and that since that time, relatives have been trying to sell them. They probably had difficulty when dealers and auction houses refused to handle the well-known stolen item or items.

Devotional

"The reunion"

By Benny Still

High school graduation — 1970; graduates return 20 years later — 1990. Anticipation? Apprehension? What will they look like? Will they have changed as much as I? What to wear? I really wondered if 20 years would have distanced



Still

ed me enough from the petty jealousies and feelings of insecurities that I had felt back then. Had I matured enough to be able to cross the social barriers that separated me from many of my classmates? I didn't know. But I did know that I would not allow myself the luxury of distancing myself from the inevitable any longer. I had to risk the encounter of the reunion. I would find it difficult to cope with the possibility of some of their deaths that might transpire during the next 10 years. Some had already gone into eternity. How I wished that I had made the effort to make contact with them at the 10th reunion in 1980.

The drive to Cleveland was an interesting trip as these thoughts flooded my mind and jogged my memory. I thought of things that I had not remembered for over 20 years. I remembered faces, events, silly pranks, and caring teachers. Then I saw the fields that bordered the highway. I observed crops that were flourishing — verdant hues bouncing off the hot Delta soil. Then, to my amazement, I saw crops that were struggling. They were wilting under the sweltering rays of the sun. Many had already died and their remains were scattered by the occasional breezes that had blown between the parched rows. What made the difference?

Closer observation revealed large PVC pipes along the edges of the fields of green. Connected to an abundant source of artesian water from deep within the earth, these pipes channeled life-giving water to the plants that would have and did die without it. Those fields without the pipes and the connection to the well looked so bad as their roots tried to reach out but never quite found the nourishment they so desperately needed.

I had not realized that a trip to my 20th high school class reunion would be a spiritual experience. But as I drove along, I could picture people that I had known, vibrant in their faith and commitment to the Lord. I knew the source of their energy. I knew they were connected with the well that is deep and ever-flowing, that well which never shall run dry. I thought of the fruit I had seen produced and nurtured by their consistent testimony and witness for the Lord. I remembered how I had seen them weather storms of life that would have shaken and uprooted most folks — but they remained constant because they were strong in their faith in Christ, they were rooted in his Word, and they were strengthened by his Spirit.

I also could see people I had known then, and know now, whose commitment is marginal, to say the least. Much like the crop that was struggling on its own without benefit of the irrigating, life-giving power of Holy Spirit in their lives — they are wilting, they are being tossed and driven by the winds and storms of life, they are spiritually ill. Without the life-giving water of Jesus Christ, without a daily walk with him, they are scattered by the winds of life and die because they have lost their way.

Are we vibrant? Are we struggling? Are we connected? Are we disconnected? Perhaps it's time that we crossed the bridges that time has built and tear down the barriers that differences have built and seek to have a reunion with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 12:37-38, NIV).

Still is minister of music and youth, Woodville Church, and pastor, Fort Adams Mission.

FMB moves to dismiss verdict

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Motions to dismiss a \$1.56 million verdict against the Foreign Mission Board were argued in Richmond Circuit Court Aug. 20.

Foreign Mission Board attorney Lewis T. Booker of Richmond asked that a seven-person jury's July 13 verdict be set aside in a suit brought by a former missionary to Africa, Diana Sue Wade, on behalf of her four children.

During the trial, Mrs. Wade contended her children suffered trauma because board officials learned that her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was sexually abusing their oldest daughter but did not disclose it to her,

the mother, so she could halt the molestation. Mrs. Wade contended her husband continued to abuse the daughter as well as a second adopted daughter and began abusing a third daughter.

Booker argued during the trial that board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances by telling Wade to inform his wife of the abuse and obtain professional counseling, which he did not do. Officials then ordered Wade to return to the United States with his family for counseling. He later was arrested and imprisoned for child abuse. The Wades are now divorced.

ROMANIAN WOMAN

From page 9

pean Baptist Foundation office in Germany.

"The secretary said, 'Rodica, where have you been?'" Cocar said. Word had traveled to Germany about her experience. The federation agreed to pay for her trip.

So Cocar did make it to Korea the second time with a Korean visa in hand.

By the time Cocar walked through immigration at the Seoul airport the second time, "My rage was gone — it was my recognition that God's hand had been in it."

WORLD CONGRESS

From page 9

rhythm and joined in to sing the last stanza.

Nikolaev called attention to the large attendance of Soviets and said, "I am here as a witness to you that the Lord answered our prayers."

During the week in Seoul, time was also allotted for meetings of the women's, men's, and youth departments of the BWA.

The BWA General Council approved more than \$1.7 million in funding goals for Baptist World Aid projects.

The next meeting of the Baptist World Congress is to be in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 11-15, 1995.

JORDAN

From page 3

the city of Irbid. Browning both works at a conference center for Jordanian Baptists and handles maintenance needs for Southern Baptist workers in the country. DeBerry oversees two Baptist bookstores in Amman, Jordan's capital, and one in the city of Zerka.

The first Southern Baptist worker scheduled to leave Yemen Aug. 23 or 24 was Judy Knight of Reidsville, N.C., along with her three sons, ages 11, 9 and 3. Her husband, Fletcher, a hospital maintenance worker from Madison, N.C., is one of the nine workers planning to remain in Yemen.

The others who hope to continue at the Yemen hospital are three doctors, two nurses, an administrator, a pharmacist, and a lab technician.

The hospital, in the town of Jibla, was founded in 1968. Its staff has climbed to nearly 200, including Southern Baptist personnel, Yemenis and others from several countries.

A small demonstration was held around the hospital compound several days ago, Thorne said. The government, which always has assigned several soldiers to provide security at the hospital gate, increased its contingent to as many as 25 last week. Yemeni officials have assured Southern Baptist workers at the hospital that they are not regarded as "part of the American establishment that (demonstrators are) protesting against," Thorne said.

The operation of the hospital is being scaled down, Thorne said, because hospital workers from the Philippines, India, and Egypt, including four doctors and a number of nurses, also are leaving Yemen.

Concerning the Grahams in Kuwait, Mrs. Graham's mother, Margaret Nuzum of Hutchinson, Kan., said the State Department telephoned her son Aug. 18 to report that "they were still in the embassy and the boys had kids to play with and Maurice was busy with people."

Previous messages relayed by the State Department concerning the Grahams have been equally brief. The Grahams have not been able to telephone relatives in the United States since the early morning hours of the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Art Toalston writes for FMB.



"Drum of Africa" becomes Christian

The "Drum of Africa" troupe, which performs traditional dances at tourist hotels along the Kenya coast, has been spiritually transformed. Fifteen of the 25 men and women who perform with "Drum of Africa" became Christians in one week after missionary David Sorley (right) met five of the young men

and was invited to come to their homes. Here Sorley and his wife, Darlene, lead the village in gospel choruses after a Bible study on musical instruments used to praise God in the Jewish temple. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

BSSB, RTVC reopen discussions

NASHVILLE (BP) — Leaders of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission have re-opened discussions on ways the two agencies can work together in a telecommunications ministry for Southern Baptists.

RTVC President Jack Johnson and BSSB President Lloyd Elder have met twice since the June 21 decision by Sunday School Board trustees to terminate the Baptist Telecommunication Network on Oct. 1. Elder said earlier discussions between the agencies have been held beginning with the start-up of BTN and ACTS.

In a joint statement released Aug. 2, they said, "Our mutual objective is to explore options for working cooperatively within our respective program assignments to enhance one telecommunications system for the benefit of Southern Baptist churches and the entire denomination and to offer customer-supported video products."

Areas of discussion include "joint research, relationships with state conventions, joint productions, the possi-

ble marketing of RTVC programs and services through BSSB channels and marketing of BSSB products and services through the ACTS Network," the statement continued.

However, they emphasized, "As these discussions proceed, we may eliminate some of these areas and discover others with greater potential."

Elder and Johnson said they have not set a date for completing their talks.

"Our stewardship demands both careful deliberation and appropriate speed," the statement said. "We want to find out what Southern Baptists want and need from our two agencies."

As discussions proceed, Elder said a Sunday School Board video marketing task force has been named to study Southern Baptist needs in video and other audiovisual products.

The task force, to be chaired by Joe Denney, director of the BTN/audiovisuals department, also will consider organizational and personnel needs for producing and

marketing video and other audiovisual products, Elder said.

Conversations with the RTVC are crucial to the board's overall research and service commitment to the churches, he said.

Johnson said the discussions could open up new ways the two agencies can work together for the benefit of local churches.

"The Radio-TV Commission is committed to helping churches take full advantage of the television and video opportunities. These discussions may prove to be the beginning of a new cooperative relationship with very positive implications for our churches and associations," Johnson said.

In their joint statement, Johnson and Elder concluded: "We believe Southern Baptists must use television, video tapes and other media to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 and beyond. Our commitment is finding ways we can work together most effectively and efficiently to support Southern Baptists in our common mission."

Draper says Dilday issue is settled

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — An issue that some observers predicted could result in the firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been settled, according to the chairman of the seminary's board of trustees.

"As far as I am concerned, the issue is settled," said trustee chairman Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, following a three-hour meeting with Dilday on July 27.

Draper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, discounted rumors of a called trustee or executive committee meeting to deal with Dilday's public comments during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

Dilday had said in New Orleans that "crass, secular political methodology

used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years has satanic and evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed."

On July 4, Dilday issued a statement of clarification addressed "to persons who misinterpreted my intention in the comments I made" (in New Orleans). In his clarification, Dilday said, "It is obvious to me now that 'satanic and evil' have different connotations to different hearers, and that my choice of words blurred the intent of my statement, leading some to assume I had labeled fellow believers as satanic. That was not my intention, and if my statement was so perceived, I am truly sorry."

Dilday and Draper met on July 27 to discuss the situation, as well as other matters facing the seminary.

While their dialogue about the New Orleans incident did not consume the entire meeting's agenda, they spent "a great deal of time" talking about it, according to Draper.

"Basically, I'm a lover and not a fighter," said Draper. "If something is bothering me, I want to talk about it and move on. The president and I have talked, and I'm ready to move on with the business of the seminary."

Draper said he and Dilday had "a very frank and good meeting. I hope we made some giant strides. I guess time will tell. I think both of us want to have a positive impact on the situation, and I feel the meeting was a good start."

Dilday echoed the same tone, saying: "It was a very positive and constructive meeting."

BSSB won't publish centennial history

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Sunday School Board has decided not to publish a book written to commemorate its 100th anniversary.

The board stopped the publication process on "Celebrating Heritage and Hope," written by H. Leon McBeth, during its summer trustee meeting Aug. 13-15 in Nashville. The board will be 100 years old next May.

The decision was made because "this board has not wanted to fan the flames of controversy" within the Southern Baptist Convention, said Donald Moore, chair of the board's general publishing committee. "The book was unbalanced."

"I stand by the book," responded McBeth, chair of the church history department at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "It is a balanced interpretive history of the first 100 years of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Trustee officers and board administrators declined to cite specific problems with the manuscript. McBeth said letters and comments he received gave him an indication of why publication was stopped. "I had the understanding the fundamentalist trustees wanted a harsh treatment of Lloyd Elder in this book," he noted.

Elder has been president of the board since 1984 and periodically has been criticized by conservative trustees. In August 1989, trustees debated a motion to fire him for almost one hour before the motion was withdrawn.

SSB Chairman Bill Anderson said the reason for stopping publication was broader than a single person or issue.

"It's not so much the book that is a problem," said Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla. "It is that it's a history of a period which is in some tumult."

"Any history of the convention or its agencies and institutions is going to offend people on either side" of the Southern Baptist controversy, Anderson added. "We don't think that's wise."

"It's a good book, well written, by a fine author. But why risk offending?"

The components of the board that have reviewed the book have not said which side of the convention controversy they believe the book favors," Anderson said. "The committees have not stated which, in their view, of the two sides might not like the book. Conservatives might not; moderates might not."

The book was commissioned about two years ago, and the primary draft was completed last fall. It proceeded through the board's editing channels but had not received final administrative approval when at least a dozen trustees asked to see the manuscript, said Johnnie Godwin, SSB vice president for general publishing.

Trustees' questions about the book led Moore, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville, Ind., to convene a workgroup to study it. That workgroup, comprised of the officers of Moore's committee and Anderson, unanimously voted to "counsel the administration not to proceed with the publishing of the book."

The general publishing committee ratified the recommendation Aug. 14, and the full board of trustees unanimously concurred Aug. 15.

Trustees and board staff worked together throughout the process, Godwin said. "The administration is not an adversary of the board of trustees but sees itself as a partner in

ministry. . . . Broadman Press has a sound, standard procedure requiring publication. All of those (steps) were followed in this process, and we had not arrived at a finished product at the point which the review came into being."

Asked if the board's administration would abide by the recommendation, Godwin told trustees, "I will not publish this manuscript."

That will prove to be a bad decision, McBeth predicted: "I acknowledge that the trustees have the prerogative to do this, but it's a mistake. It's their loss."

"What the trustees did will hurt the board more than me. I feel a deep sense of disappointment. But I feel for the board if the people feel there is no freedom to express views except one set of views."

"You must not fiddle around with history. You must tell the truth as you see it; none of us is omniscient."

"The attempt . . . to manage history will backfire. If they try to tell the story in a way that is not balanced, not accurate, the people in history will know and will judge them harshly. This is why I would never attempt to distort history, because the truth will come out."

The trustees who studied the issue aimed for objectivity, Moore said. "We tried to maintain a neutrality so we would not be biased as we read it. Admittedly, that's very difficult."

Rejection of a book manuscript is not precedent-setting, Anderson said, noting, "Every year, the board turns down hundreds of books."

Publication of a different history book or a major revision of McBeth's book is not planned, Anderson said: "No decision has been made. We envision no such move." A subsequent decision would be up to a later board of trustees, he added.

The manuscript belongs to the board, since it was commissioned by the board, Godwin said. McBeth has been paid \$12,000 of his \$18,000 contract for services and expenses, and the final \$6,000 payment is in process.

McBeth, who has taught at Southwestern for 30 years and spent about a year on the book, said: "The story of the Sunday School Board for 100 years is a story worth telling. As far as my telling it, . . . we have not discussed it."

"In the long run of history, I believe this manuscript will come to light. Like Job in the Old Testament, I feel like — maybe not in the flesh — I will be vindicated."

McBeth added that he will not hold anger toward the board. "I am sorely disappointed, but I am not going to be bitter," he said. "I am a Southern Baptist. I would never intentionally hurt Southern Baptists and bring embarrassment upon the Sunday School Board and its trustees."

"There's no anger" for McBeth on the part of the trustees, Anderson said. "Most of us had him in seminary. The big problem is not that we have a problem with Dr. McBeth. It is that we have a tumult out there and don't feel it's wise to be interpreting history as it happens."

President Elder declined to comment on the situation and referred questions to Godwin. Godwin explained that Elder had removed himself from direct contact with the project from its beginning, to avoid conflict of interest regarding the historical account of his tenure.

Knox is editor, Kentucky Western Recorder.

Study and prayer — the dynamic duo

By Jim Smith

2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17;
Matthew 6:5-8; Luke 22:40

Each of us has automobiles that we have come to believe we cannot do without. Most of us have also learned that regular maintenance must be performed on these motor vehicles to keep them running at peak performance. We as Christians are no different. While we have many activities that we are to be about, none is more important than maintaining our personal relationships with God. Our effectiveness in every area of our lives depends upon the daily renewing of this relationship through prayer and Bible study.

We need the same encouragement that the writer of 2 Timothy offers. In order to be used by God to the fullest, we must be prepared, schooled in his Word, and ready to witness in all ableness for the faith. Once the commitment is made to Christ, we are born in him and he lives in us. We, however, must grow beyond the

LIFE AND WORK

stage of birth, feeding upon the Word of God, learning wisdom and truth, becoming what he would have us to be — perfect for our mission to a lost and dying world.

In 2 Timothy 3:16 we have one of the clearest, most concise, most descriptive statements on the uniqueness of the scriptures to be found in the entire Bible. In spite of those who would seek to take from it and those who would seek to add to it, this statement declares the God-inspired nature of all Scripture that has been preserved for us by the hand of God, collected by the church, and compiled as the Holy Bible.

Based upon the nature of the letter, it is possible that this statement was necessary not as initial instruction but as a note of encouragement to hold fast and stand against the onslaught of Gnostic and other spurious writings that were being pressed upon the early church at this time in its history. We encounter the same pressures today from various religions and cults all claiming "divine inspiration" for their own set of "scriptures." Some examples are: the

Book of Mormon from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Koran of the Muslims, and the Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures of the Christian Scientists. We as Christians need to be reminded often to be faithful to the Holy Bible and nothing else!

Four areas are mentioned in which we can see the appropriate application of Scripture: it is the only foundation for Christian doctrine (the truths revealed by God), it reveals our sins and rebukes wrong living, it gives principles to help us change our behavior and attitudes, and it teaches us how to follow the example set by Jesus in our daily lives. These four areas are in addition to the primary importance of the use of Scripture mentioned earlier in this passage, that of its ability to instruct one in knowledge unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. A further benefit to be obtained by the proper use of Scripture is that the Christian worker will be equipped to complete the mission that God has for each of us.

The other half of the daily duo is that of communicating with God through prayer. Some people take the passage in Matthew 6:5-8 to be a prohibition against praying in public. I do not believe this was the intent of Jesus. The pur-

pose of prayer is to communicate with God and not man. Our attitude during and our motive for prayer is extremely important. These two things affect the appropriateness of our prayers. Unlike those who seek the approval and attention of men, the Christian is to come humbly but boldly before God. We are to offer our petitions, praises and thanksgivings with a broken and contrite heart. The intercession for the needs of others and for ourselves would be proper motives for prayer. James cautions us that we often ask amiss desiring to consume that which we ask for upon our lusts, and in these cases God does not honor our requests. We are to pray for God's glory and not for self!

When we come before God in the proper attitude and with the proper motives, we need not be concerned where we choose to pray for God will hear us and respond to our requests within his will. While God is already aware of our needs, he still wants us to ask for our needs because in doing so we come to rely upon him; and for us to grow in faith we must rely upon God.

Let me ask you today. How is your maintenance program?

Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

"For selecting leaders, seek God's leadership"

By Bob Rogers

I Samuel 10:17-25

Tal Bonham tells of a teenaged boy who was asked to explain what a deacon was. The boy answered, "A deacon is a thing that sits along the seashore and blinks at night." Actually he wasn't as far off as we might think, because a deacon should be a guiding light. Many churches are preparing to elect deacons at this time of the year. This Sunday's lesson provides helpful principles in selecting leaders.

Samuel was the last of the Hebrew judges. Some of the judges had been godly, such as Deborah, Gideon, and Samuel. Others, such as Jephthah and Samson, had been selfish and immoral. The chaos that resulted caused many to feel that a king could unite the nation around the Lord (Judges 21:25). Most Jews, however, wanted a king for the wrong reason: to be "like all the nations" (I Samuel 8:5). Since they were surrounded by enemy nations which had kings,

they felt that their tribal confederacy was an inadequate government. They had forgotten that God was their king (I Samuel 8:7). The public selection of Saul as king in I Samuel 10:17-25 reveals principles for selection of our leaders today.

1. Involve all the people (vs. 17)

The entire nation was called together at Mizpah, a central location about eight miles north of Jerusalem, where they had held national meetings before (Judges 20:1, I Samuel 7:5). Verse 20 mentions that "all the tribes of Israel" were represented there. In the church, all of the people should be involved in the process of electing leaders (see Acts 6:3-6).

2. Remember that no leader can replace God (vs. 18-19)

Samuel went ahead with the selection, knowing that God could use a king for the good of the people. First, however, he scolded them for having the wrong motives in requesting a king.

UNIFORM

Those who flock after a certain teacher, preacher, or other leader should remember that only God "saved you out of all your adversities" (vs. 19).

3. Follow God's guidance in making the selection (vss. 20-21)

Saul was chosen by lot. Little is known about lots. They may have been stones or dice marked with a "yes" and "no" answer which were cast on the ground to determine the Lord's will. This was a common practice (Joshua 14:2, I Samuel 14:42, I Chronicles 24:5) in early Israel; but apparently it fell out of use with the rise of prophets after King Solomon's lifetime. Although the method may seem haphazard to us, it was not a reliance on chance, for Proverbs 16:33 asserted that God gave the decisions. In the church, we must seek God's leadership through passages such as I Timothy 3, rather than select leaders based on popularity.

4. Accept responsibility if you are chosen (vss. 22-23)

Why did Saul hide among the travel baggage that the people brought to Mizpah? He may have been down inside someone's bags! But why? Judging from Saul's later shirking of the

responsibility to face Goliath (I Samuel 17:11), he probably was afraid to accept the responsibility of being king. This often happens in churches, when a person qualified to lead is approached about a position and he or she timidly refuses. If your church needs you, don't hide on the back pew!

5. Leaders have limitations (vss. 24-25)

Samuel explained the "manner" of the king's rule and preserved it in a book (vs. 25). The word translated "manner" in the King James Version is translated "regulations" in the New International Version, and "ordinances" in the New American Standard Bible. The Revised Standard Version calls it the "rights and duties." These are detailed in Deuteronomy 17:1-20. The king was not to abuse his power. In the church, no leader is to have unlimited authority, for such authority belongs only to God.

Questions to consider:

1. What criteria should a church use to choose a pastor? a deacon? a teacher?
2. What responsibilities are given to these leaders? What limitations do they have?

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

King Saul's jealousy — seedbed for murder!

By Lannie Wilbourn

I Samuel 18:6-12; 27b-29; 20:14-17

"Jealousy, the jaundice of the soul" is how John Dryden described the powerful emotion that drove King Saul. Jealousy is further defined as envy, grudge, resentment, and fearfulness. All of these fit the picture painted of Saul in our lesson. Saul's jealousy was prompted by the folk song sung by the dancing maidens from all the towns he passed through returning home from battle. Warriors marching home expect cheering crowds along the roadway. Rather than tossing confetti the

maidens tossed the refrain, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." On one side of the road they would sing "Saul . . ." and the other side would answer "David . . ." It was too much for Saul. He was overwhelmed with jealousy. Two reasons are given for Saul's jealousy: his fear and David's popularity.

Saul's actions clearly show how emotions drive behavior. He was angry with David who had recently saved his army from humiliation by defeating Goliath. The anger kept him from celebrating a national victory. Then he was suspicious of David and kept a "jealous eye" on him. We have all "eyed" someone else out of jealousy.

This jealousy opened the door for the evil

spirit from God (16:14) to gain more power in his life (18:10). Saul became ecstatic in a negative manner. Earlier (10:9-10) Saul had "prophesied" when the Spirit of God came upon him. God had changed his heart. He joined in with the prophets praising God. However, the ecstasy brought on by the evil spirit is a different matter. "He raved within his house" and "he was beside himself" are other translations. The Hebrew verb is the same in both places. The verb describes Saul's action. The source of the spirit determines whether the action is good or bad. Certainly the Spirit of God would not cause Saul to hurl his spear at David whom God had chosen to lead his people! Today's weapons are different and physical murder is not the objective. But, we would do well to locate the source of the spirit which drives behavior within the church when verbal barbs are thrown.

The schemes Saul concocted (Ch. 18) to get rid of David are vivid illustrations of the lengths a jealous person will use to get satisfaction. He sank deeper into his jealous state when he "realized that the Lord was with David." But Saul had gone so far that he could not or would not change for, "he remained his enemy the rest of his days." How sad for a person's whole life to be dominated by jealousy. But it does hap-

pen today when paranoid jealousy rules and ruins.

In stark contrast to Saul's behavior toward David is that of his oldest son Jonathan: "he loved him as himself" (18:1). Jonathan, though legitimate crown prince, had recognized that David would be the next king and not himself. He asked David to not follow the custom of killing all the king's heirs when he came to the throne (20:14-17). It was common practice in those days for the conquering king to kill all the family of the conquered king. Jonathan's request employed the Hebrew word "hesed" which is translated by "unfailing kindness" (20:14 NIV). This word is most often used to describe God in his dealing with his people in the Old Testament. It is very close to the New Testament word, "grace." In other words,

Jonathan was asking David to act like the Spirit of God was really controlling his life. David did. A covenant was made which David later kept when he brought Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth, into his place (2 Sam. 9).

This covenant is a worthy model of relationships for us. Its voluntary nature is like that which God offers us. He is the conquering king who offers a personal relationship to all who will accept it. The offer comes from his "unfailing kindness." Rather than responding as defeated subjects though, we can choose to accept the offer made in love. Or, we can choose to live our lives with paranoid jealousy toward God and man. Our behavior will show the source of the spirit in our lives!

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

Jews for Jesus witness in NYC

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — When 21 missionaries with Jews for Jesus set out to conduct a month-long evangelistic campaign in New York City during July, they had the history of 15 previous summer witnessing campaigns on which to base their expectations.

All that changed this summer. "The spiritual receptivity quotient has shot way up," said Tuvya Zaretsky, leader of the 1990 Jews for Jesus outreach. "It's phenomenal, if not a miracle. It's been like knocking your head against the wall and, surprise, the wall begins to crumble."

By all human reckoning, the street witnessing campaign was set up for a failure. Yet with fewer people to do the work, 1,212 people made first-time commitments for Christ, and 1,798 non-Christians said they were willing to hear more about Christianity.

150 volunteer helpers blitz Jackson County apartments

By Anne W. McWilliams

The old woman was bent and could not stand up straight. Her face was covered with scabs. But she said, "God is so good to me. Praise his name!"

A man, one of a ministry team visiting the nursing home to share love and kindness, was impressed. "When I heard that woman," he said, "I felt bad about ever having complained of anything."

One hundred fifty helpers, many of them Acteens, blitzed Jackson County the last week of July, from all over the state. Fifty more from Jackson County assisted. Over three years, this Jackson County ministry blitz has mushroomed. It has spread, too, to Tupelo, Starkville, and Greenville. Several youths have said they felt a call to career missions.

Eleven teams taught Vacation Bible School to children in housing projects in Jackson County and another worked in nursing homes. Thus far, 78 professions of faith have been reported as a result.

On Sunday night, July 22, Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preached at First Church, Gautier, at the commissioning service for the teams.

Extra ministries were added this year. Pineview, Hattiesburg, Acteens did clowning and puppets in the children's wing of a hospital. Discussions took place with

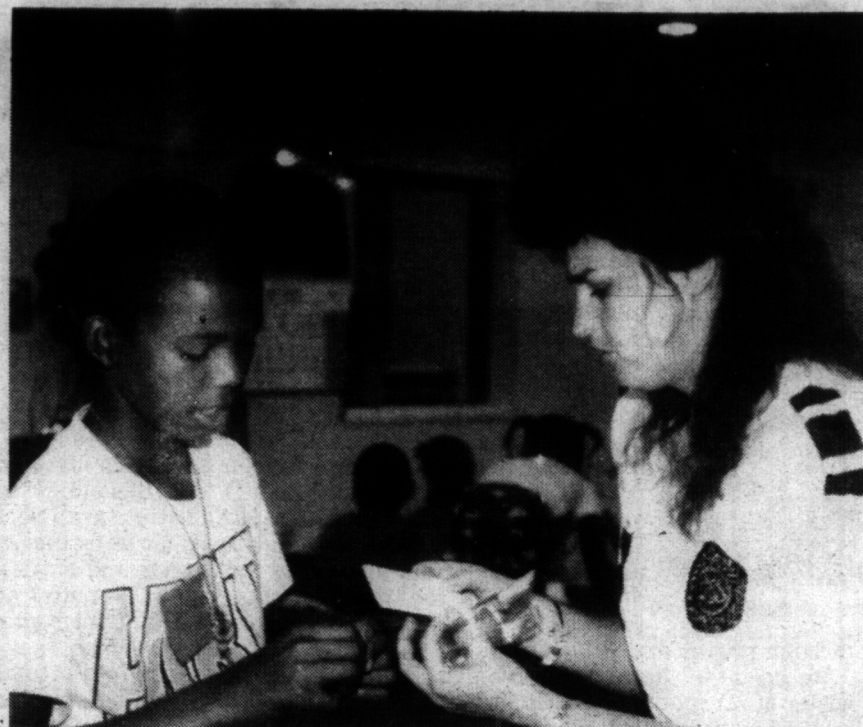
25 youths at a detention center. One youth prayed, thanking God for his parents and saying, "God, please help me not to get in trouble again."

"The teams came here so well prepared!" said Rebecca Williams, coordinator of the blitz, who is wife of Billy Williams, pastor of First Church, Gautier, and Career Center manager, Gulf Coast Community College.

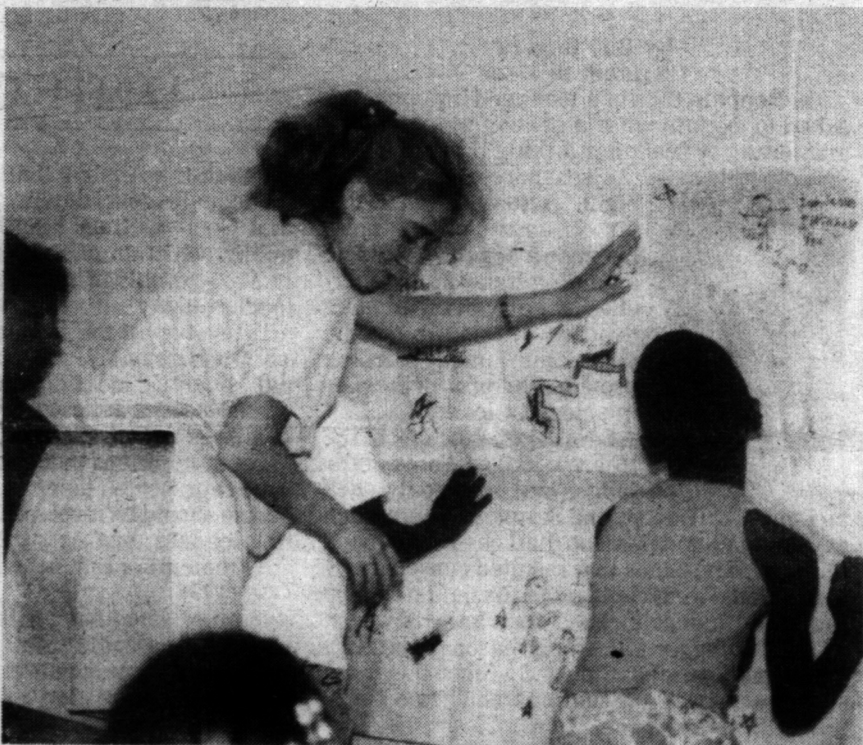
This year, three pastors accompanied their volunteers to the Coast. They were John Cutrer, pastor of Dinan Church, Walthall County; Robert Fortenberry, pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle; and Larue Stephens, pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Lumberton.

"The pastors and others said, 'We are going back home and do this in our own neighborhoods,'" observed Mrs. Williams. "And we hope the people here in Jackson County will say, 'We will continue to do this type of mission work all the time.'"

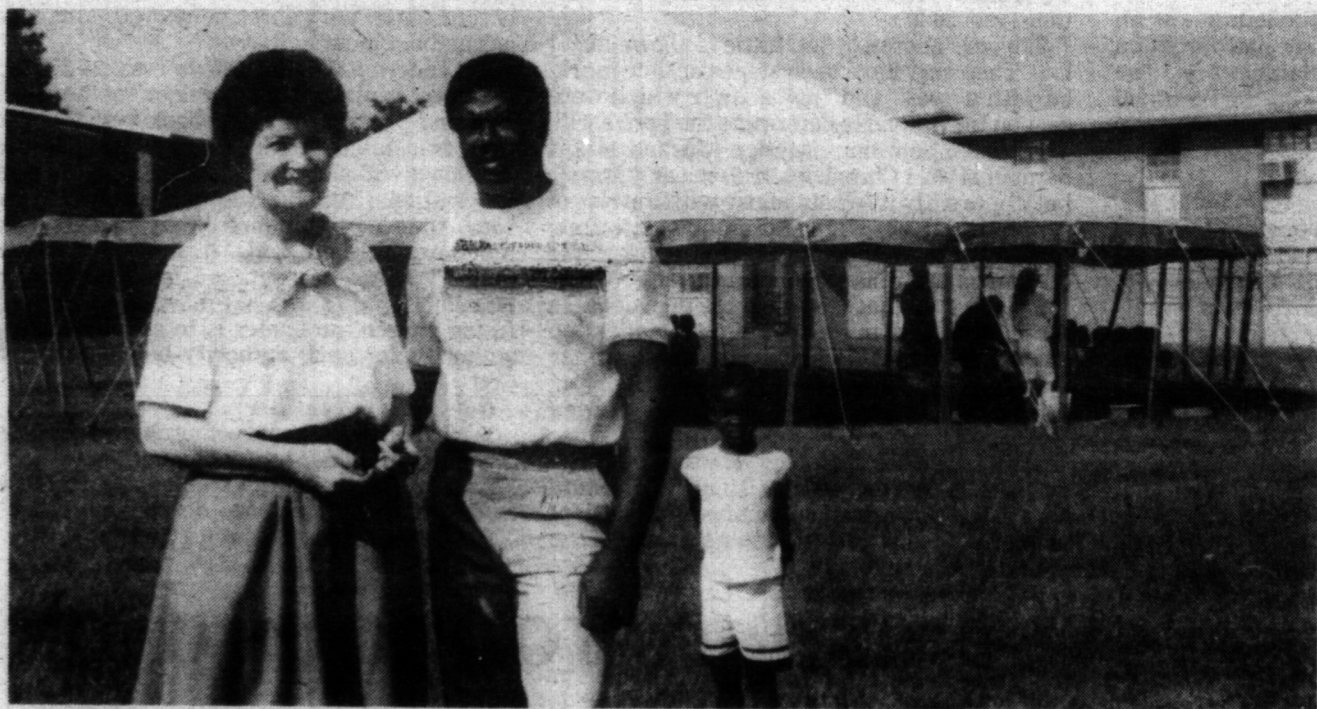
Teams were from Biggersville Church, Corinth; Mt. Gilead, Meridian; Fairfield, Moselle; First Church, Boyle; Poplar Springs, Mendenhall; Pineview, Hattiesburg; Hebron, Grenada; Walthall Association, Tyler-town; Cedar Grove, Columbia; Rocky Creek and Northside, Lucedale; Woodville Church; and Prentiss Church.



Melissa Clemts, Acteens leader, Pineview, Hattiesburg, gives instructions to a boy in Bible school at Warner Homes, where Pineville Acteens taught. On Wed. night, this group reported to the Escatawpa Church. One day while they were at a grocery store, they found their car battery dead. Several persons helped them, as a result. Their leader told them, "See? God always provides. You can always trust him to supply your needs." When Escatawpa members heard the story, they took up an offering and paid for the battery.

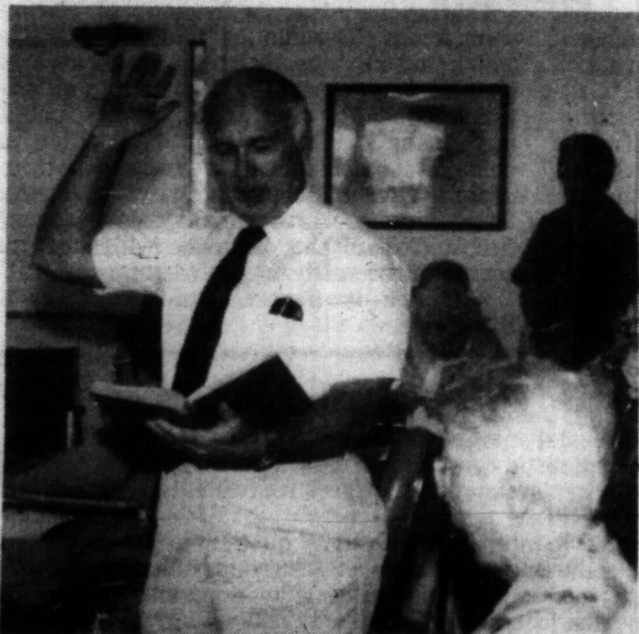


A new work this year at Clark Homes, near a papermill, grew in attendance from 5 to 30. Hebron Church, Grenada, Acteens, with their leader, Frannye Robertson, and her husband, Dick, were the VBS teachers. Above, Frannye and Dick get some help in putting up a mural. A Clark Homes, one of the children's mothers came to help, Deborah Hawthorne.



Carver Village children, Pascagoula, met for Vacation Bible School under a tent (background). Also this year an apartment, which was being air-conditioned, was provided for class use. First Church, Boyle, volunteers led the group for a se-

cond year. In foreground, above, are Rebecca Williams, coordinator of the blitz, and Billy Bush, employee in Jackson County's Mental Health Department, who does volunteer social work at Carver Village in his spare time.



Billy Williams, pastor, First Gautier, leads "Love Lifted Me" at Chateau Deville, nursing home in Moss Point. Senior adults from Prentiss Church worked in several nursing homes, giving devotionals, leading singing, polishing fingernails, applying make-up . . .



Ethel McKeithen, left, Eight Mile, Ala., joined the Prentiss team after she read about their plans in the Baptist Record. She said she plans to undertake a similar nursing home ministry at Eight Mile. Teams reported in Jackson County churches on Wed. night. Miss McKeithen, in her talk, said, "I ask not what my church can do for me, but what can I do for my church?" At right, in Chateau Deville, is a deaf man who was singing with his hands.



Bubble blowing contests at Hinson Homes ended with a winner whose bubble burst. Fairfield Church, Moselle, taught Bible school there, using mission VBS materials, as did the other teams. This group slept on mattresses at First Church, Moss Point. Two groups stayed at motels — paid their own expenses. Others slept in churches.

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